WHENCE? WHY? WHITHER?

~ARTHUR~PILLSBURY~DODGE.~

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WHENCE? WHY? WHITHER?

MAN

THINGS

OTHER THINGS

BY

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"O Children of Men!

Do ye know why We have created ye from one clay? That no one should glorify himself over the other. Be ye ever mindful of how ye were created. Since We created ye all from the same substance, ye must be as one soul, walking with the same feet, eating with one mouth and living in one land, that ye may manifest with your being, and by your deeds and actions, the signs of unity and the spirit of oneness. This is My Counsel to ye, O people of Lights! Therefore follow it, that ye may attain the fruits of holiness from the Tree of Might and Power.

"In the Name of the Mighty Speaker!

O ye possessors of intelligence and hearing, the the first melody of the Beloved is: O nightingale of Significance, seek no refuge save in the rose-garden of significances! O messenger of the Solomon of Love, dwell not but in the Sheba of the Beloved! O phoenix of Immortality, choose no abode except in the Mount of Faithfulness! This is thy station if thou art soaring to the Placeless on the wings of Life.

"O Friend!

In the garden of the heart plant only flowers of Love, and withdraw not from clinging to the nightingale of love and yearning. Esteem the friendship of the just, but withdraw both mind and hand from the company of the wicked.

"O Sons of Earth!

Know the truth that a heart, wherein lingers the least trace of envy, shall never attain unto My Immortal Dominion, nor feel the fragrances of purity from My Holy Kingdom.

"O Son of Glory!

Be swift in the Way of Holiness, and step into the Heavens of Intimacy. Clear the heart with the burnish of the Spirit, and betake thyself to the Presence of the Most High!"

"Hidden Words" From Baha' Ullah, which, translated into English, reads: The Glory of God!

WHENCE? WHY? WHITHER?

PART I CHAPTER I

MAN—THE PREDICATE

RUTH; plain, simple Truth; practical Truth to the point, directly applied; Law, Order, everywhere, in everything! These things in homely simplicity, yet in magnificent grandeur! These things are sought for by all true souls! These things everyone needs and must have!

Together we will proceed on a little prospecting tour. Let us venture, boldly, yet humbly, into the trackless jungles of human, even inhuman, experiences, conditions, errors and falsehoods! Let us strive with the lamp of earnest and energetic endeavor to throw upon the scene, yea, the various scenes of life, THE LIGHT OF GOD'S ETERNAL TRUTH! Thus shall we make possible, aye, certain the discovery of how to break away from the foolishly vain inventions, imaginations, dogmatisms, mysteries; the traditions and falsehoods of the dark ages, which, instead of having become filtered and purified during the lapse of centuries, have become augmented and intensified to such evil purpose, as to swerve us, the human family,

wide of the true course, leaving us cast high and dry on the desert island of farness away from God and His Spiritual Truth, in a state of woeful deadness to the realities of Truth and Life!

We are certainly created for Truth. Truth is for us. Let us *have* Truth! We shall supplant the *letter* of barrenness and misleadings with the *spirit* of the glorious realities!

The marvellous movements of the vast universe of inhabited worlds; the magnificent workings of nature's laws, as observed on all sides; the known fact, for instance, that the exact time of an eclipse may be unerringly determined and foretold hundreds of years in advance: these and myriads of great things within human observation, constitute positive proof of the existence of perfect, axiomatic, sublime, eternal LAW!

With a due contemplation of these matters, coupled with the habit of looking to our loftiest conception of God for guidance and direction, and possessing something of an adequate conception of Truth, it becomes clearly self-evident that Supreme Intelligence must, in the nature of things, be at the source of and forever preside over universal and perfect LAW!

"Cause and Effect" is Positive Law.

There is no such thing as obtaining something from nothing. Back of everything, of every "effect" observable, there is, there must be an adequate first cause or basic and eternal principle.

Inasmuch then, as works, involving intelligence and reasoning powers, are in evidence on all sides, and that coincident therewith is the clear manifestation of immutable Law, it is at once self-evident that "adequate first Cause" is and must be perfection. Thus, as man, though far from perfection, does possess in some degree something of those perfect qualities, which we naturally and advisedly contemplate as Divine Attributes of Eternal Causation — perfect intelligence, will, reason, justice, judgment, love, spirit, individuality and identity, we are forced, whether we so will or not, to the irrefutable conclusion that there exists, and always has existed, the Uncreate, the Eternal Creator and Sustainer of all in the vast universe of worlds, God, Father, the Supreme, the Divine Intelligence Presiding over perfect Law involved in and regulating every conceivable scope of intelligence and action!

WHENCE!

CHAPTER II

IF we have reasoned wisely and well, rationally and logically, we behold our starting point, an open vista of Light penetrating the dark jungle of past human experience and error. If we are clear regarding Law and its Supreme Head; especially if we are consciously apprehensive of the eternal Law of Cause and Effect, we must reach, we have reached, the indisputable conclusion, being reasonable and logical thinkers, that man has his beginning in individual identity when he is born into this world, this kindergarten training school for the countless ages to come!

It being true that the Hebrew root signification of the word "Creation" means the fashioning and forming and putting in orderly condition, shape and being, rather than the making of something from nothing, as hitherto generally believed; that all in the material or physical world—the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms—are constantly subject to and undergoing change and reversion; that spirit only is exempt from such conditions of change and reversion and is as changeless as the self-existent principle of mathematics; that God is Spirit; that man is created in the Image and

Likeness of God (Gen. 1, 26-27), that is to say, that man is *being* created or grown and developed onward and upward unto a spiritual state or condition of likeness or Oneness with God, by becoming characterized, as taught by Jesus Christ, with His Characteristics or Divine Attributes of Love, Truth and Spirit, it becomes forcefully, irrefutably evident to man that the essence of his identical and individual being came forth from the eternally existent Spirit of God and is destined to go on and on forever!

Therefore God, the Eternal Creator and Sustainer, embodying the Divine Attributes of Perfect Love, Wisdom, Judgment, Will, Goodness, Harmony, Mercy and all that is, must be and is the first cause of man.

Are not we able, then, to answer that query Whence of Man?

Man is the manifestation, the effect of, comes out from his Adequate Causation — GOD!

WHY?

CHAPTER III

WHAT is the real object or purpose of man on earth? There must be a great purpose? Can anything be without a reason or purpose? Is it not reasonable to hold as a fact that so long as there remains a mystery unsolved, a growth and development of ourselves so incomplete that we are still ignorant and unpossessed of the power of knowing and communicating, consciously, with the Author of our being, our real Father, that there can be no doubt regarding the proposition that we are and ever have been intended to attain to the great station of knowledge of and oneness with God the real Parent?

There is a great lesson for us in the human infant, the most helpless of all created objects of the animal kingdom at birth. The little kitten knows enough to draw away from danger, but the human infant, the highest of the world creation, is oblivious to danger and will not exercise the power of self-preservation. There is deep significance here. The lower animals are governed by instinct, though at times it may be difficult to differentiate between instinct and reason. It has often been found that horses and dogs and other animals think. It is

clear that the lower animals have within their power to use at the very beginning of existence something which tells them what to do to avoid injury and in attending to necessary duties, even in their first experience in reproducing their species, and wholly without exterior information or assistance. But man, who has only a modicum of this instinct, nevertheless has to be educated from infancy to maturity! If an All-wise Creator provides the lower animals so beautifully with what we call "instinct," or that interior primary knowledge or intelligence which directs them through all critical and trying ordeals, is there any likelihood, any possibility that the highest of created beings, man, was unprovided for, was neglected? No! A thousand times no!

It being clearly evident, as hereinbefore discussed, that man was created and destined for the incomparably lofty station of oneness with his Father, and that, being devoid of conscious power for self help and protection at his time of early infancy, it is perfectly apparent that the plan for man's guidance from earliest, helpless infancy, contemplated his being guided and instructed from exterior sources! What is natural and clearly observed in this respect touching the individual, is equally true in the larger sense applying to the race of mankind as a whole!

We have proof that man existed on earth for hundreds of thousands if not millions of years

prior to the Adamic era. It is now known that Adam was a prophet or teacher of God, and not the first one either, though the first one known to ordinary history. There have been great epoch-marking prophets at the head of great cycles, or religious dispensations, and there have been a far greater number of lesser prophets. While all have been educators from God to the world, the former have been inaugurators of systems of instruction and enlightenment known as religious revelations, such as those through Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed. Each successive one has been greater or more full and complete according to the growing and developing needs of mankind, yet at the basis it has always been one and the same eternal truth of and from God, the Source of all!

We may look upon this world as a vast schoolhouse; God the principal; the prophets and messengers of God, the teachers or educators; the entire world of humanity, the scholars needing and receiving education! There is much further education and development to achieve before we get what we are here to accomplish. This we know as a positive fact because we are far from being spiritually perfected in the Image or Likeness of God, who is Spirit and Love.

Thus it is readily admitted that creation and inspiration are as much of fact today as in any former age.

Is it not out of all reason to suppose that man

was put here in the world for merely that troublous existence to be terminated with the grave? Yea, verily, there must be a great purpose in his existence. Let us reason to ourselves a bit. Let us see *why* we are here. The following quoted words, however, seem to answer that question masterfully and beyond doubt:

"The hearts were created for the love of God, the eyes were given for perceiving His Signs, the ears created for hearing the Voice of the Merciful, and the tongues were given for His Commemoration at morn and eve.

"It is incumbent upon ye to appreciate these gifts, for these bounties benefit ye, and through them your faces will shine in the Kingdom of God, and your spirits will be revived through the Eternal Life.

"O servant of the Merciful! Know with true certainty that man was not created for the life of this world, as it is mortal and there is no certainty therein. Is it possible that this great creation and glorious being should terminate in mortality! Is it meet that the result of God's great creation, which is unlimited, that is, man, should live in this world a certain number of days, with many difficulties, troubles, without repose and rest, and then die and end in mortality? No! Verily, by truth, this is not meet! Nay, rather, this glorious being and grand creation was made for the Eternal Life, Spiritual Happiness, Revelations of the Heart,

Divine Inspiration, Heavenly Perfections, and Virtues of the Kingdom.

"Therefore, arise with all power in this Great Cause, and follow the Teachings of God, whereby we may attain the life of the Kingdom, which is spiritual, eternal and never ending. . . ."

"This earthly world is narrow, dark and frightful: rest cannot be imagined and happiness really is non-existent; and every one is captured in the net of sorrow, and is day and night enslaved by the chain of calamity. There is no one who is at all free or at rest from grief and affliction. Still as the believers of God are turning to the Limitless World they do not become very depressed and sad by disastrous calamities,—there is something to console them; but the others in no way have anything to comfort them at the time of calamity. Whenever a calamity and a hardship occurs they become sad and disappointed, and hopeless of the Bounty and Mercy of the Glorious Lord." (A.B.A.)

Must not our aim in life be spiritual rather than "material?" Of a truth it is a spiritual existence beyond the grave. We can conceive of no other. Is it not the best we can do to follow Christ's instructions as to "the only way" to attain unto the Kingdom? Is it not the highest of folly to fritter away a life in devotion to merely the material, matters of adornment, outward show, service of king mammon? Everything we can conceive of, everything in existence irrefutably points to the

immense fact of our being created for something other and beyond the preparatory conditions and requirements of this world of materiality, this world of constant change and reversion. Blind and ignorant indeed we must be if we fail to realize in certainty that in all domains there is, ever has been, and ever will be, something more and greater than the mere preparation! The state of preparation presupposes that for which the preparation was made. The ground is prepared for the seed, which is planted and allowed to decay and give up its life in order to bring forth more bountifully. Then we have to patiently wait its growth and care for it until—what? until the object of all those processes and vigils is reached in the maturity of growth, development and production of the new creation or result following the preparation.

It is the same with the human being. There never was anything more absurd than to hold that man was put here, without his intervention or even knowledge, for merely this world existence, which is beset with trials, troubles, obstacles and difficulties every moment, from birth curtain call till the shroud of final exit, never again to return!

O God! grant this prayer: Remove our sordidness and enable us to behold the glorious purpose of our being on earth—that it is to glorify, attain unto and be ever radiantly happy in and with THEE!

WHITHER?

CHAPTER IV

IF we are perverse enough to wish to do so, we cannot question the fact, obvious and clear as it is, that God is Spirit and Eternal Love and Truth; that man being created in the Image and Likeness of God means, as already stated, that when man, being obedient to the commands of God, is finished in creation, that is growth, he will be spiritually developed and unfolded and like unto God in substance and quality—not outline and form.

In considering the "Why" of man we have seen that there would be no sense, logic or law in his being put into this cold world of matter, where all is subject to the constant law of change and reversion, as a finality, but that unmistakably here is his training, schooling and preparation for his real existence, life, action and happiness in the great and incomparable beyond!

It is quite unnecessary to either deny or discuss here the magnificent fact of perfect and superb law and order governing and controlling the vast Universe and all within its nameless boundaries. So far as this planet is concerned it is self-evident that man is the highest result and exponent of created forms.

It is far from uncommon that human beings manifest, more or less unexplainably, the positive fact of conviction, of a certainty of belief tantamount to settled knowledge, in the life beyond the grave. But let us behold how simple it is to prove and demonstrate the immortality of the human soul.

The fact is alleged to be scientifically established that there is no such thing as loss in the world or universe; that is to say, we may burn the tree, eat the vegetables and meat; disolve the gold into a lquid, nay, even a gaseous substance, and make the rock invisible, intangible in the ordinary sense, and yet there is no such thing as loss in the slightest degree to any of those substances!

Now it is a self-evident proposition that mind, soul, spirit, life of man is far greater and superior to the mineral and vegetable elements entering into the formation of his physical body.

Therefore these two predicates, they being undeniably true, obviously present at once the fact of immortality! Simple? Who can gainsay it? The life beyond must be continued existence without impairment, for the ending or impairment in the slightest degree of individuality, identity, personality, would be a loss, and loss in no wise enters into the great and eternal plan!

Jesus Christ declared: "In my Father's House are many Mansions." Asked to explain this re-

markable statement, the most enlightened, pure and lofty soul in the whole world said: "The Father's House is the vast Universe; the many mansions are the infinite number of inhabited planets!" (A. B. A.)

All reasonable and enlightened beings must perceive and admit that the "whither" of the human soul, the real life, is the continuous spiritual existence beyond the grave, beyond that which we usually and wrongly call death. In reality going through that change called death is a new, real and higher birth!

Jesus Christ said: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5:5.) Have in mind the New Heaven and the New Earth (Rev. 21.) Christ promised for the time of establishment by the Lord of the Vineyard of His Kingdom on earth, at the Day of Resurection, Judgment, Millennium, Peace on earth, when spiritual or heavenly conditions would supersede the ruling and governing of the world by the lower nature of man. "Of His Kingdom there shall be no end." (Lu. 1:33.) "The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell therein forever." (Psa. 37:29). This clearly refers to heavenly conditions, rather than the literal earth, locally and immediately considered. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8.) When Christ was on the cross of crucifixion He declared to the repentant malefactor on another cross: "Verily I say

unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in paradise." What better testimony regarding immortality is required?

In summing up then, it is indisputable fact that God is Spirit, Truth, Love, perfect and eternally existent; that man came out from God in Whose Image and Likeness he is ordained; that man, according to all reason and judgment, according to all Divine Revelation and Promise and the whole nature of things, was intended to know and be at one with God! Just as truly as the human infant needs instruction from infancy to maturity, so is it true that the race of mankind requires and was intended for education and growth and development upward to that essential height so as to be able to see, in spirit and in truth, and *know* our real and true Father, God! Just as truly as the human infant was intended to know and have inter-communication with its earthly parents, so is it likewise undeniably true that the great and entire human family was intended to enjoy knowledge of and inter-communication and oneness with God! Of at least equal truth and certainty it must be declared that until this knoweldge, oneness and inter-communication becomes a realization, the creation of mankind remains still in process!

"There are three births of man; first, the material (or physical;) second, to be born of water, and third, to be born of the Spirit. . . . To be born of the Spirit is to give np material desires,

and to take on all the qualities of God, and thus he begins to ascend the other side of the circle. The spiritual half has an indefinite number of conditions, but always progressing upwards.

"Athough the embryo is alive in the womb of the mother, yet it is considered as dead, and when it is born from the mother's womb, it receives a new life and a great Spirit. So the same result occurs in the second birth which is a spiritual one. When it is produced for a person, that person will possess another life, receive another energy, obtain another power and gain another might."(A.B.A.)

From this consideration of the subject, though hurried, brief, limited in scope and completeness of treatment, it is submitted that the honest, sincere and thoughtful are bound to, and, it is presumed, gladly will agree with the writer that the "whither," the great future of the human spiritualized soul, is destined for that great forever beyond the grave!

We cannot deny, and it would be a great pity should we wish to deny, that the "Whither" of the human soul is a consciously spiritual existence in perfect brotherhood love and truth with the Supreme Lord of the Boundless Universe, the Glorious and Only True Father!

To briefly recapitulate: From whence is man? He came out from his Source, the Infinite and Eternal Creator of all, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Father of Heaven and earth

and all therein, the Sustainer of the entire Universe!

What is the purpose of man? Why is he on earth? Man as the Microcosm, or little world in himself, is a minature or sign and form of the vast Macrocosm, or universe of worlds! As man has to be educated from his infancy at birth to his maturity; as the infant man, the individual, was destined from the beginning to ultimately know and exercise the power of inter-communication with his earthly parents; likewise, by parity of reasoning, it is perfectly obvious that the entire human family was designed to be, and has ever been in the process of being, educated from its racial infancy to maturity, and was just as surely intended to arrive at the stage of development, unfoldment, creation, admitting of inter-communication with God, the Father of the race, as was the individual human infant designed to be educated to maturity and was designed to know and communicate with his earthly parents!

Surely the entire race of mankind was intended to become like unto God, the Father, in Love, Spirit and Truth! This is the real meaning of the creation of man in the Image and Likeness of God —not in outline and form. Man was made to love, worship and serve and be loved by God!

The Whither of man? Man is and was destined from the beginning, and there is no tangible or sensible argument to the contrary, to go on and on

forever in the higher, the sublime spiritual realms, with God and all that is Glorious! Of a truth mankind the creature was intended to know and be with its Parent! But was there not something for mankind to do? What if mankind should forfeit the right to such incomparable attainment and enjoyment? Note the following remarkable words:

"Know for a certainty that except in the servitude of Baha (Glory), there is no glory for man, and save in evanescence and utter nothingness there is no immortality!!! Until man lose himself in God he will not live through Him!" (A.B.A.)

A human child may, it does sometimes, forfeit or make impossible the enjoyment desired and willed by his parents for him. The race of mankind, man individually and collectively, is not only endowed with the inestimable rights, privileges and blessings, as stated, but is charged with certain duties and responsibilities. He is given the choice of good and evil. He must choose the good path, and not the converse. He must work out his salvation? He should not be misled by a dead ecclesiasticism, by any false teachings regarding an unwarranted and impossible doctrine of blood atonement!

It behooves us to wake up and realize that this world is the training ship and camp for the navy and army of the Lord; the school of true learning, aye, knowledge, in the Spirit; the target ground of severe trial and test; the field of conflict for

overcoming self and the world; the battle field of the human natures,—the strenuous contention between the Abel, or higher, spiritual nature, and the Cain, or lower, passionate, beastly nature, each forever striving for the mastery. It is only by the higher nature overcoming the lower, that we can become successful candidates for the REAL BEYOND! We must strive with vigilance for the *supremacy of our higher nature!* This is our birthright; it was always intended for us. The essence of all power for that high attainment is and ever has been within us!

RELIGION

PART II CHAPTER I

THE dictionaries give various definitions of Religion.

The noted Hebrew scholar, Gesenius, is authority for the statement that the Hebrew root of the word Religion signifies :"To bind back to the truth," and this root significance is also held to portray "piety, religious, and gathering together," etc.

In a word and correctly, Religion is Pure Truth of and from God, the Creator, the Real Father, revealed by Him in the different ages or Prophetic or Religious Dispensations, through His Prophets and Messengers, for the instruction and guidance of the world of humanity.

Religion is also knowledge of God. Absolutely *all* Truth and pure Knowledge is of and from God. Indeed, there is not and never has been in the world an honest thought, a true idea, a conscious fact of truth but which, at some time, emanated from God, the Supreme Lord of all!

Although Religion, that is Truth, has been and is revealed mostly through the duly appointed Teachers (prophets and messengers) from God, the exalted and unknown Principal of the world school, for the education and enlightenment of His

scholars—the race of mankind—wholly inclusive and without restriction or limitation, yet Religion, or Truth, or Knowledge is also revealed in and through every human being who is spiritually receptive to God and His incomparable Truth; who is, in other words, as written by Trine, "In Tune with the Infinite."

Lactantius, centuries ago, defined Religion to be a "Tie of Love between man and God."

Religion is of the *heart* and not of the *head*. None save the pure and sincere can possibly apprehend the reality of Religion. Christ declared: "Only the pure in heart shall see God." It is obvious that such only can know the Truth of God!

Ernest Renan has well said that every religious system can be summarized in this brief sentence: "Love the good God and be good."

As a matter of fact, and finally, we must know that in reality there is but one Religion in the world, nay, more, that there never was but One Religion! At first thought this may seem to be a wrong statement. We will see, however, by thinking a little, and by remembering that there is One God only, and that Religion is His Truth, that more than one Religion—one Truth of God—would be impossible!

We of the ages may have been misled by the fact that Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses, each in turn, gave less of spiritual teachings from God to the world, than came through Jesus Christ.

But the explanation is simplicity itself. In the time of the earlier prophets mankind was less ready in development and preparation to receive than during the later ages or dispensations, but we must admit that it was the same Truth, identically, manifested in and through every one of the great prophets and messengers!

Even in the improved time of Christ, as compared with former periods, He declared the world was ready for only a part of the Truth He brought: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all Truth." (John 16 : 12-13.)

Here is a practical definition and application of Religion: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this; to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1 : 27.)

The Reverend Doctor ———, head of one of New York's leading churches, has declared that "Christianity is the only God-made Religion; all others are man-made!" Such a statement is a most serious mistake and discloses the deplorable fact that its author was lamentably unacquainted with the nature and character of Religion, in not knowing that, while there are man-made theologies there is no such thing as a "man-made religion." And, were he familiar with the Life, Works and Teachings of Jesus Christ, whose minister he pro-

fesses to be, he would recal the fact, plainly shown in the Bible, that Christ ratified and confirmed all Revelation from God through Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Isaiah and others, indeed all Revelation prior to His own time! Verily that minister should know that all Revealed Truth of and from God is in fact, RELIGION!

There have been Seven Great Religious Systems of the world, and they are universally referred to as different religions. That is entirely wrong: they should be called the different Revelations or manifestations of the ONE AND ONLY GREAT RELIGION OF GOD, referred to in the fifth chapter of Revelation as "The Seven Seals of The Book!"

The ancient religious systems have long since become so rent and cut up by dispute and dissension; have been so divided into sects and followings, it has for a long time been quite difficult to trace and correctly define the strict integrity of the original SEVEN GREAT RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD. According to the Persian-Egyptian scholar, Mirza Abul Fazl, whom the writer looks upon as one of the greatest living and known students of Religion, of God and His infinite, primary and fundamental Truth, and from whom he has derived more insight as to the realities of the Christian Revelation, notwithstanding the fact that he himself was brought up a Mohammedan, than from any other scholar or author, has defined those

seven great religious systems by name as follows: Sabeanism or Fettishism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism. He insist that careful perusal of the original and fundamental teachings of each positively proves their derivation from the same Divine Source, and that, consequently, each and all are in strict accord and harmony.

As showing the singularly unfortunate misconception and contemplation of Religion by the religionists of the world in general, let us briefly consider the attitude of the Christian world towards Mohammedanism, which practically parallels the indefensibly false attitude of Judaism towards Christianity! The emphatic teaching of the Christian Church has been to the effect that Mohammed was a false usurper and Mohammedanism a false religion, not of God, but of man! Yet Mohammed clearly and fully ratified and confirmed the Teachings of Jesus Christ and, as the Divine agent, messenger and instrument of God, actually saved Christianity, then at its lowest ebb, to the world!

One of the terrible evils with us is the woeful increase of the suicidal mania. It is one of the many evidences of the sin-sickness of the world, of the spiritual deadness of the world in general, and of Christianity in particular, respecting the reality of Religion. Judge Ameer Ali, Syed, M. A., C. I. E., in his book on Islam, says as follows:

"Th belief that the human soul will have to ren-

der to its Creator an account of how it has carried out in this life the duties imposed on it has had one important result on Moslem society, the significance of which has often escaped the notice of non-Moslem writers. It has inspired the Moslem with a sense of dignity and feeling of responsibility, which have made self-destruction practically unknown in Islam. Suicide was as common among the pagan Arabs as it is now in Christendom. Ecclesiasticism attempted to prevent self-destruction by attaching the most cruel penalties to the offence. The body of a *felo-de-se* could not be interred in consecrated ground: it could only be buried surreptitiously in the dark hours of the night by the roadside where four cross roads met, with a stake through it; his family was subjected to ignomy. None of these forcible rules are needed in Islam. The belief that Divine help is always nigh to relieve the distressed, to help the suffering, to assist the forsaken, arrests the hand of the most despondent or desperate, the most sick and weary with life, from taking his or her own life. Whilst the idea of appearing in the presence of the Almighty Judge before the summons has come acts as the strongest deterrent to self-destruction. The Moslem will fight even unto death, but will never take his own life, which he regards as a trust from God. Never backward or hesitant in the performance of his duty, he considers it an act of cowardice to fly from personal danger or present unhappiness by putting an end to his existence."

As in the time of Christ the members of the church system professed to be believers in God and followers of Moses, and Christ rebuked them, declaring they did not so believe, for if they did, they would believe in Him, as Moses wrote of Him, so now the "Christians" are equally false in their professions, for if they truly believed in God and His Christ, they would surely believe as well in His Prophet and Messenger Mohammed. Let us peruse a few utterances of Mohammed. About the ninth year, A. H. (after the Hegira, that is, the flight to Medina), Mohammed "granted to the Christians" a charter which forms one of the noblest monuments of enlightened tolerance:

"To the Christians of Najran and the neighboring territories the security of God and the pledge of His Prophet are extended for their lives, their religion, and their property—to the present as well as the absent and others besides; there shall be no interference with (the practice of) their faith or their observances; nor any change in their rights or privileges; no bishop shall be removed from his bishopric; nor any monk from his monastery, nor any priest from his priesthood, and they shall continue to enjoy everything great and small as heretofore; no image or cross shall be destroyed; they shall not oppress or be oppressed; they shall not practice the rights of blood vengeance as in the Days of Ignorance (In Mohammedan parlance the period of preceding degener-

acy is thus called); no tithes shall be gathered from them, nor shall they be required to furnish provision for the troops."

Note these words: "To the missionaries whom he sent to the provinces, Mohammed always gave the following admonition. 'Deal gently with the people, and be not harsh, cheer them and contemn them not.' And ye will meet with many people of the Book (Jews and Christians) who will question thee, 'What is the Key to Heaven?' Reply to them, 'The key to Heaven ts to *testify to the truth of God and do good work!*"

On the occasion of his last pilgrimage to the Kaaba, in 632, A. D., accompanied by more than a hundred thousand followers, Mohammed delivered to the vast multitude his famous "Sermon on the Mount," a part of which follows: "Ye people! listen to my words, for I know not whether another year will be vouchsafed to me after this year to find myself amongst you. Your lives and property are sacred and inviolable amongst one another until ye appear before the Lord, as this day and this month is sacred for all; and remember ye shall have to appear before your Lord, who shall demand from you *an account of all your actions.* . . . Ye people! listen to my words, and understand the same. Know that all Moslems are brothers unto one another. Ye are one brotherhood. Nothing which belongs to another is lawful unto his brother, unless freely given out of good will. Guard yourselves from committing injustice."

Early in his mission Mohammed advised his followers, who were so furiously persecuted, to seek refuge in the kingdom of the Negus. Many whose sufferings had become unbearable, did so, but Koreishite hostility pursued them, demanding their deliverance to be put to death. The memorable reply of their spokesman, the brother of Ali, follows: "O king, we were plunged in the depth of ignorance and barbarism; we adored idols, we lived in unchastity; we ate dead bodies and we spoke abominations; we disregarded every feeling of humanity and the duties of hospitality and neighborhood; we knew no law but that of the strong, when God raised among us a man of whose birth, truthfulness, honesty, and purity we were aware; and he called us to the Unity of God, and taught us not to associate anything with Him; he forbade us the worship of idols; and enjoined us to speak the truth, to be faithful to our trusts, to be merciful and to regard the rights of neighbors; he forbade us to speak evil of women, or to eat the substance of orphans; he ordered us to fly from vices and to abstain from evil; to offer prayers; to render alms, to observe the fast. We have believed in him; we accept his teachings and his injunctions to worship God and not to associate anything with Him. For this reason our people have risen against us, have persecuted us in order to make us forego the worship of God and to return to the worship of idols of wood and stone

and other abominations. They have tortured us and injured us; until finding no safety among them we have come to thy country!"

When the spirit of this great Prophet, Mohammed, took its flight to the beyond, the grief and exitement was intense. The venerable Abu Bakr, afterwards his succesor, uttered these words of caution: "Mussulmans, if you adored Mohammed, know that Mohammed is dead; if it is God that you adore, know that He liveth, He never dies. Forget not this verse of the Koran, 'Mohammed is only a man charged with a mission; before him there have been men who received the heavenly mission and died;' nor this verse, 'Thou too, Mohammed, shall die as others have died before thee." After the election of this venerable patriarch he addressed the following allocution to the people: "Ye people! now verily I am charged with the cares of government over you, although I am not the best amongst you. I need all your advice and all your help. If I do well, support me; if I mistake, counsel me. To tell truth to a person commissioned to rule is faithful allegiance; to conceal it is perfidy. In my sight the powerful and weak are alike, and to both I wish to render justice. . . Wherefore obey ye me, even as I obey the Lord and His apostle: If I neglect the laws of God and the Prophet, I have no more right to your obedience."

Soon there was excitement and revolt in some

of the provinces. In sending his army to Syria to redress a great wrong, Abu Bakr gave his captain the following injunction: "See that thou avoidest treachery, injustice and oppression. Depart not in any wise from the right. Thou shalt mutilate none, neither shalt thou kill child or aged man, nor any woman. Destroy no palm-tree, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut not down any tree wherin is food for man or beast. Slay not the flocks or herds or camels, saving for needful sustenance. When thou makest a covenant, stand to it, and be as good as thy word. Ye may eat of the meat which the men of the land shall bring unto you in their vessels, making mention thereon of the name of the Lord. As you go on you will find some religious persons who live retired in monasteries, and propose to themselves to serve God that way: let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries. And the monks with shaven heads, if they submit, leave them unmolested. Now march forward in the name of the Lord, and may He protect you from sword and pestilence."

The writer has conversed with many able clergymen who are free with their denunciations of the prophet Mohammed, whom they invariably referred to as a base, wicked, false usurper; and with the Mohammedan Religion, which they were pleased to denominate a man-made and false religion. And yet I learned from them that they had never studied or even read the Koran or the Tra-

ditions of Mohammed! What excuse can they offer for their notorious temerity in denouncing as false a thing of which they confess no knowledge? It has been a common fault with the clergy to denounce Voltaire and Tom Paine as atheists, when in fact, they cannot show that either of these great men ever denied God and His Truth! The trouble with these men of the cloth was, it seems, this: when they have found men really honest and God-respecting and faithful and courageous enough to denounce a false and corrupt church, whether Christian, Mohammedan, Jewish or Zoroastrian, they, not being capable of differentiating between God and the reality of Religion, and a degenerate and spiritually dead church organization, have erred in such matters, as they erred in upholding and defending slavery, and invariably have erred in opposing or neglecting to lead in the great reform movements of centuries, of ages!

Irrespective of the question of the right of any church or person to presume to deny and oppose any prophet or messenger God chooses to send on a world misssion, it is perfectly clear none have a right to denounce or deny what they have no knowledge of, whatever! Of course these clergymen know nothing of the famous "Oath of the Prophet Mohammed," which he intrusted to his Caliphs, expressing his authoritative Command to all his followers to respect and protect the followers of Christ? All of Islam were required

to subscribe to that oath. It was issued to the Christian monks of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai. The original is still preserved in the treasury of the Sultan at Constantinople. It is a remarkable document, and it is most strange, either:

1. That there have been none in the Christian church familiar with these matters which so conclusively refute their teachings—far worse and more false than can be found in the teachings of Judaism, to prejudice its followers against Christianity, or else:

2. That, knowing the truth reflected in the foregoing excerpts from Mohammedanism, yet they have knowingly, wilfully deceived and misled the masses of the Christian church into diabolically false beliefs and practices; have persistently and criminally traduced and influenced the people against a great Prophet of God and his magnificent work for the people of the entire world without distinction or qualification! Which horn of the dilimma will they sit on?

Who can find fault with those Mohammedan utterances? Who can charge they emanate from a false religious system? From false prophets and teachers? Contrast those utterances with many diabolical commands and judgments of "Christian" rulers and soldiers. Compare those portions of the true history, as practically agreed upon by the greatest of both European and Eastern historians, showing, in the main, in their intercourse

and conflicts, outrageous perfidy on the part of the Christians, and manly, humane chivalry on the part of the Mohammedans!

One cannot read of the period of the Crusade wars without blushing with shame, indignation and regret because of the un-Christian conduct of the crusaders, marching with the Cross of Christ in one hand, and the sword of injustice, tyranny and hell in the other! I blush in sack cloth and ashes for my ancestors, when I realize how they suffer in comparison with their opponents, those heroes of honor and magnanimity! This was notably illustrated in "Richard the Lion Hearted" of England, in his violation of parole and pledge and in cruelty, as contrasted with the conduct of that grand old hero, Saladin, the famous Mohammedan king and commander!

GOD

CHAPTER II

MY GOD, I have turned my face to Thee, and pray Thee to illuminate it with the Lights of Thy face, and keep it from turning to any but Thee!"—(Abdul Baha Abbas).

"O, son of the Soul! Be blind, and thou shalt behold My Beauty; be deaf and thou shalt hear My Sweet Melody and Song; be ignorant, and thou shalt take a portion from My Knowledge; be needy and thou shalt take a never-ending share from the everlasting Sea of My Wealth; blind, that is from beholding aught besides My Beauty; deaf, that is, from listening to aught besides My Utterance; ignorant, that is, of all besides My Knowledge. So shalt thou enter the Pasture of My Sanctity, with pure eyes, unsullied minds and sensitive ears." (The Word of God through Baha' Ullah.)

Finite man has thus far been unable to apprehend the Infinite God, but is not man intended to know God, the Father? The state of parent and child is inconceivable without latent power of inter-communications. Christ declared: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." (John 4 : 24.) The Bible says

that man is created in the Image and Likeness of God; hence, man, when finished in creation or growth and development, must be *spiritual*—like unto God, Who is SPIRIT.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (St. John 1 : 1.)

Christ declared: "The first of all the Commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is One Lord." (Mark 12 : 29.) And: "Why callest thou Me Good? there is none good but One, that is, God" (Matt. 19 : 17).

Let us seek, in Spirit and in Truth, to know and be with God. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8 : 31).

The human mind is incapable, at present, of grasping, even approximately, the overpowering vastness of God, of Eternity, of abstract perfection! We know, however, that God is self-existent, as is the principle of mathematics—without beginning and without ending!

God is Spirit, Love, absolute perfection, the Cause and Sustainer of all that is. He is the Principal of the great world School, and His creatures, the human beings, are His scholars. He sends Teachers from time to time to educate His scholars. These are known as prophets and messengers.

"The Hebrew word Elohim is used as the Name of the Creator throughout the first chapter of Genesis. The primitive significations of the root

from which it is derived, as given by Gesenius and other Hebrew scholars, can be condensed and arranged in order as follows: A power going forth, entering into, becoming as nothing, setting up motion, causing to revolve, ruling, guiding, directing: finally bringing about relations of beauty, strength, harmony, majesty and perfection. This in brief is the etymological sense of that Name of the Deity which is used in the account of the Creation of the Material Universe.

"Jehovah is the second Name of God. The Hebrew root of this word conveys the idea of existence, being, life. That which is by reason of its own virtue Self-existent, Changeless, Eternal. He who was, is, and ever shall be.

"God Almighty, or Almighty, the third Name of th Creator; Hebrew, El Shaddai, signifies primarily to shed or pour forth energy, or that which nourishes and sustains life." (Wait.)

On the subject of the Names of God we will quote from the American Ency. Dict. as follows:

"Two leading Names for the Supreme Being continually occur in the Hebrew Bible; the one general, the other specific. The general term is El or Eloah, both singular, the Elohim plural. The specific one is Yehovah, in general written Jehovah (q.v.) It is of the first that God is the appropriate rendering. El Eloah, and Elohim signify Deity in general. Elohim is much more common than the singular forms. An anomalous

grammatical idiom is generally introduced where it occurs. While it has the plural form, it being the plural of Hebrew masculine nouns, the verb, of which it is nominative, is uniformly singular. Older writers found in this a reference to the Trinity in Unity; grammarians term it the plural of excellence, and some have supposed that the plural noun carries us back to the infancy of the Hebrew language when polytheism prevailed, and that the singular verb established itself when monotheism displaced the worship of many gods. Among the epithets of titles used of God in the Old Testament are Most High (Gen. 14 : 18, etc.), Mighty (Neh. 9 :32), Holy (Josh. 24 :19), Merciful (Deut. 4 :31), God of Heaven (Ezra 5 : 12), God of Israel, etc., (Ex. 24 : 10). Anthropomorphic language occurs chiefly, though not exclusively, in the poetic parts of the Old Testament (2 Chron. 16 : 9, Psa. 34 : 15, Deut. 8 : 3, Psa. 29 : 4, Isa. 40 : 12, 53 : 1, Ex. 32 : 23), but monotheism is enjoined in the first commandment, and idolatry forbidden in the second, while in Isaiah and elsewhere there are most scathing denunciations of the manufacture and worship of images (Isa. 40 : 12-26 42 : 17, 44 : 9 : 20, etc.). In the New Testament, St. John gives the ever memorable definition of the Divine Nature, "God is Love." (1 John 4 : 16). The Latin Church, the Greek Church, and the several Protestant denominations, all essentially agree in their tenets regarding God. See the Apostles',

Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the first of the Thirty-nine Articles, the Catechism of the Council of Trent, the Confession of Faith (chapter 2) and the Shorter Catechism, question 4."

In the Bible we are promised a New Name of God at this time, according to the dates given in that great work. The Name is Baha' Ullah (meaning in English The Glory of God). The period referred to, the present, is the Seventh great world Day or Cycle, the Day of Most Great Peace, the Millennium which our grandmothers were praying for.

Most people would resent, and quite naturally, being told that the present Visitation of Divine Manifestation is far greater and more important than hitherto witnessed by the world, yet it is strictly that which Christ foretold and which His entire mission predicated.

It would be equally resented by the world—the church world—being informed that the present is an idol-worshipping age, and, further, that no former age has displayed more idolatry. Such is the deplorable, the sad fact. The chief difference between then and now, respecting idolatry, lies in the *form* of the idol. The present-day idol is the mammon dollar, rather than the golden calf and graven images, though there is far more of mere image worship today in the Christian world than is realized. Century after century we have become so engrossed with the pursuit of the mater-

ial, that is, mere worldly wealth, pleasures and really degrading intellectual accomplishments (?), that we have gradually, almost imperceptibly, drifted away from the higher pathway—from God and His satisfying Truth, into the lower, the degrading, the culpable roadway and service of mammon — the antithesis of the Spirit of Truth, that is to say, God!

If we will but mend our ways; if we will obey the teachings and commands of Christ and all the great prophets, we will be able to rejoice in the knowledge of God, and to know that He is Spirit, Truth and Love!

THE WORD

CHAPTER III

IN the first chapter of John we read: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," and that "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among men." From this it has been contended that Jesus was God, but this is gross error. In the same chapter it is recorded: "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." This is sufficient proof, taken with such of the utterances of Jesus Christ as these: "It is not Me, but the Father that dwelleth in Me, Who doeth the Works;" "My Father is greater than I," et cetera, that it is and ever has been the Word, that is to say, the revealed Spirit and Truth of God, which has, in all ages or prophetic cycles, been vested in or manifested through the various prophets, teachers or messengers accredited by Divine Authority, during the periodic and succeeding great educational world Days or Dispensations. This is plain enough. If we are of the Truth we cannot mistake the true meaning.

The Word was manifested to mankind through Adam far less than through Christ. Indeed the "Christ" was in reality the WORD manifested in

the flesh, the human body known as the individual Jesus of Nazareth.

In every dispensation the Word is manifested in a different leading prophet-educator. Contemplating the great epoch-marking prophets or messengers of God from Adam down to the present time, it is clearly perceivable that a larger portion of the Word—the Truth of God—was imparted to the world with each successive age, but we must remember that the Word is just as fixed, unchangeable and eternal as is God Himself! The principle of mathematics is fixed, unchangeable, determinate, but lessons of its teachings vary greatly in fulness and importance in the numerous school grades from the kindergarten to the university!

While it is always the same identical Word or Spirit of Truth, each revelation-prophet has a different and distinct station or designation. The station of Abraham, the father of Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism, was "The Father of the Faithful," "The Friend of God," etc.; Moses "The Law Giver," "The Interlocutor of God," etc.; Jesus Christ "The Anointed of God," "The Son of God," "The Son of Man" etc.; Mohammed "The Apostle of God," "The Seal of the Prophets," etc.

As to Jesus Christ, we must know how to differentiate between Jesus the man, and Christ the Divine Word manifested from God, reflected in

the *man* Jesus. Herein is found that which is most satisfying as to the question of immaculate conception, for that is readily acceptable when referred to the Word or Spirit, the Christ, but is not so readily applicable to the physical body of the man Jesus. We do not believe the conception of the body of Jesus was contrary to law, for perfect God Who presides over Perfect Law, does not and cannot violate law. However, there is always this to be said : doubtless there are myriads of laws we are as yet unacquainted with. After all, it is of no consequence whatever as to whether or not the inception of the physical body of Jesus was the result of the laws of wed-lock. The Spirit is the important question. These words of the apostles as to the distinction between Jesus and Christ are important :

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words ; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles, and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know ; "

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2 : 22-36.)

Moses and Christ and all the great prophets and messengers of God must be regarded as mere *lamps* through the medium of which the GLORIOUS LIGHT OF THE TRUTH OF GOD is made to radiate

to mankind. This is the LIGHT OF GOD'S TRUTH, THE WORD to which that grand character, John the beloved, referred. Do we cherish the lamps so very much? The lamps are all right and needful in their proper place, and therein may be, nay, should be honored, but it is the *Light shining through those lamps which really benefits us and is of far the greatest importance.* It is readily perceived that the Jews have erred grievously in worshipping the Moses lamp, and such error is equally true and deplorable on the part of the Christians in their foolishness of worshipping the Jesus lamp! They and all the messengers of God have urged the world of mankind to obey, love, serve and worship only God in Oneness and Singleness! We do wrong not alone by worshipping the personalities of the individual prophets and messengers; we do a far greater wrong by attempting to deify and worship lesser beings as "saints!" In holding to such things we are proclaiming ourselves pagans or polytheists, that is to say, idolators.

THE BIBLE

CHAPTER IV

UR Bible comprises matters of inestimable value concerning history, biography, description, geology, geography, social, moral and civil law, prophecy and revelation of Divine or Religious Truth. It is of the latter—prophecy and revelation—the world is chiefly concerned, and it is this which engages our especial attention.

The Bible, indeed all sacred Books or Bibles of the world, as a whole, considered from the highest standpoint and in the light of the rays of true spiritual interpretation, point to this very period of time. Now in reality is the fulness of time in the actual realization of all that has gone before—all predicating this Day of Days! Now is the time of witnessing the real and finished, nay, rather, the beginning of the finished creation of man in the Image and Likeness (truly spiritual) of God!

We must begin to perceive the grand culmination of fulfilment of the extraordinary, sublime prophecy and preparatory work of Jesus Christ and all of the other great prophets, as Heavenly Teachers, educating, developing, perfecting mankind for the inevitable, invincible, Kingdom of God "on earth as it is in Heaven!" "I must

preach the Kingdom of God!" declared Jesus Christ (Lu. 4 : 43). This magnificent, this Divine Manifestation of the Sonship Station of God taught the world in His famous Lord's Prayer to pray for the coming of the Kingdom. In all His great teachings, whether in plain and simple utterances, or if veiled in the language of parable, allegory, "miracle" or symbology, Jesus Christ pointed directly, as will be fully apparent to all in due time, to this exact period of such marvelous fulfilment, completion. This is all derived from the Bible itself, the greatest and most accurate and practical Book ever given to the world in past ages.

Notwithstanding the various arguments to the contrary, it is irrefutable fact that all Knowledge of and from God is real, is tangible, and of the very highest importance. Such has been showered upon the world in all ages, through prophets and messengers, and such is Revealed Truth of God, that is to say, REAL RELIGION! Between this and the so-called education of the world, there must needs be a vast gulf of difference. Far less value and importance attaches to the history, geography, traditions and imaginations and they exist in the Bible, than to the incomparable prophecy, but even those portions have had and will have great value.

Nearly all of the numerous branches of the Christian church have believed and do hold that

from beginning to the end the Bible is inspired revelation direct from God, and every word thereof. They have felt and of course it was necessary to so show, that from Genesis to Revelation the Bible is free, wholly so, from disharmony and contradiction; that it was and is indeed in every statement in perfect accord with fact, science, truth. As a matter of fact such is the case when we consider the prophecies and revelations from God, as distinguished from matters interpolated by people necessarily coloring their records more or less by their material and unspiritual development or condition. And right here is seen the wonderful wisdom of God in providing against certain abuses and impairments of revealed teachings by causing such to be conveyed and concealed for the time in symbols. But the church makes its contention for accord and harmony throughout the Bible while interpreting the symbols literally, instead of spiritually as obviously intended. And that is their fatal error. There is no such thing as harmony in the scriptures interpreted as the church insists, literally, outwardly, superficially. But the accord and harmony is perfect throughout when interpreted and construed as intended from the beginning, and as taught by Christ and His Apostles—*spiritually!* We may always remember that God is Perfect and could in no wise make any mistake. This remark is particularly referred to theologians and clergymen in general who ar-

rive at so many conclusions inseparably associated with the proposition that God has made and can make mistakes! These gentlemen may be so devoted to outward form and a mere profession of intellectual hair-splitting narrowness as to be totally unaware of the deplorable fact that they are considering and living by something entirely different and divorced from the Bible and from the reality of Religion! They have either failed to notice or have determinedly ignored and disobeyed certain very plain and important Notifications and Commands from God in the Bible, as hereinafter mentioned, so, we will say, ignorantly rather than from want of good intentions, they have gone to great lengths in twisting and distorting things in vain attempts to make the Bible a logical and harmonious whole. In their wrong and disobedient action—unconsciously, we will assume—they have striven, and most strenuously, to construct and present, fruitlessly of course, reasonable interpretations of such Bible accounts as the following:

1. The Genesis account of Creation, which the spiritually blind could scarcely be expected to know was *prophecy of future creation, or growth and development during cycles or ages to come, rather than history of the past!*

2. Adam and Eve and the Garden of Paradise. The Bible itself shows that these were spiritual lessons in symbolic utterance; that Adam was a Prophet of God, etc., etc.

3. Noah and the deluge has also been construed literally, painfully so, but with many most ingenious attempts, schemes and struggles to make plausible explanations and proofs, in accordance with foolish misconceptions and beliefs, regarding a literal ship-Ark, etc., which never existed save in the imagination of man. As a now known fact that famous Noachian incident was a grand spiritual teaching and prophecy in sublime symbol, and is indissolubly associated with Religion *per se!*

4. Jonah and the whale is another Biblical lesson of great moment and spirituality, but woefully misunderstood. In a word, it is practically as reasonable to say that Jonah swallowed the whale as to make the converse statement. (Vide chapter on Jonah, etc.)

It is similarly true regarding the accounts of Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh; (see "Symbolic Words"—"Miracles.") the parting of the Red Sea; Elijah and the Chariot; the Immaculate Conception; the Atonement; Baptism; Resurrection, etc., etc.

It is perfectly certain and cannot be emphasized too much, that all of the most important portions of the Bible, notably prophecy, is direct Revelation from God; that nearly all of that incomparably important prophecy is veiled to man, that is, unperceivable by the spiritually unborn and undeveloped, being contained within allegory, symbol and parable, and that therein when adequately

considered it is impossible to find the slightest want of accord, harmony and truth!

It is quite astonishing that so many centuries could elapse and no great and shining light of the church discover the clear and unequivocal notification in the Bible itself, as already stated, that we were not to be able to, nor could we possibly interpret the mysteries lurking within the inner symbol significances, but that they would all be explained in a certain manner and at a certain time! And that in the meantime we were therein commanded to live by such rules and principles as are included in the Sermon on the Mount! What church or representative thereof holds to these indisputable Teachings and Commands of God? Do not they instead preach such deceiving doctrines as "Blood Atonement?" Verily, there is harmony in the Bible, perfect harmony, when considered spiritually—not literally. "The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life!" (2 Cor. 3 : 6.)

Perhaps the most important Books of the Bible may be called the Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Malachi, and the Gospels and Revelations of Christ.

There is much of spiritual, prophetical and educational value, however, in the Mosaic and other Books. As already mentioned the Genesis account of creation is of marvelous interest and scientific value, notwithstanding its having been regarded, for so many long ages, and by so large a portion

of the world's people, as being wholly inconsistent with the harmony of truth and practical fact. It all depends on correct reading, on adequate interpretation of symbols employed for great and everlasting purposes.

The Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel to Esther contain that which is chiefly historical, and whether or not inspired of God they are important. The Book of Job is largely about himself, his boils and other afflictions, and his great patience and faith and steadfastness, but this remarkable Book is not without its very important lessons of not only living conduct, but of scientfic and spiritual value. It contains much of astronomical fact, and declares the earth a sphere when the so-called scientific world would have it a plane! It also foretold, virtually, wireless telegraphy!

From the Psalms to the end of the Old Testament we find, and almost exclusively, prophecy concerning the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth, picturing irrefutably and with undying colors, the Glad-Tidings promised by God, already manifest in the shining of a Glorious Radiance such as never before witnessed!

More than twenty-five years ago the writer used to declare that the Bible had never been read! He spoke truly. No book is read unless understandingly read. He had become a disbeliever in the church to which he belonged, and the Bible, from witnessing the foolish, inconsistent claims and be-

liefs professed on the part of the clergy and theologians. Looking backward now it seems strange indeed that so many able professional religious men should have persisted in efforts at the impossible reconciliation of certain great Biblical teachings, interpreted literally, superficially, when a very moderate investigation shows, yea, conclusively proves, that very many of the prophetic words were clearly intended, as shown on their face, to be interpreted spiritually and in accordance with deep significances. (See chapter on Symbols). It may be news to many, but it is an actual fact, that the true spiritual or inner meaning of most or very many of these symbolic words is clearly indicated—plainly proven in the Bible itself. Had the world obeyed the Divine instruction through Christ it would have become spiritual more rapidly and able to grasp the truth. As it was with the Jews, it is now a sad case of history repeating itself, for our modern religious teachers have likewise preferred to be disobedient to Heavenly Commands.

Not long after the time the writer awoke to the fact that the Bible had never been read, he arrived at the conclusion that the Truth was in the Bible and could be apprehended *when we should know how to read it!* Furthermore it became evident that when we should become sufficiently educated and developed, and understood the symbolism, then the apparent want of harmony in the Bible

would disappear. But we are informed by God through his prophet Daniel that we could not know the real and complete truth until the coming of He Who Was Worthy to unloose the seven seals of the Book (Religion of God), that is to say, explain all the great mysteries! (Rev. 4th and 5th chapters.) That Great One was to be the Lord of the Vineyard—THE GLORY OF GOD MANIFESTATION!

When the Bible is rightly, adequately interpreted, construed and understood, it is verily a vast, an inexhaustible mine and storehouse, full to overflowing of the grandest, the most magnificent Truth and beauty! The Bible, we say. But there are many Bibles. We of the Occident have been brought up to believe that we alone, practically speaking, are the children of God! What false notions; what terrible wickedness; what outrageous conceit! *All* the Bibles are of God! *All* the people of the whole world are *the* children of God! The writer was brought up in the belief that we must abhor Mohammed as a false prophet, Voltaire and Tom Paine as atheists, we repeat; the Roman Catholics and their Bible, and to do many things counter to God's true plan for all the races of mankind to be brought into relations of love and oneness as in fact one family, for all have the one and same FATHER. The Douay Vulgate (Roman Catholic) Bible, the text, is by far the best Bible we have in the English language. Voltaire and Paine believed in God, but not in a false church.

Let us strive to see how foolishly wicked we poor mortals have been; let us mend our ways, and love, obey and ever serve God. Which are we to stand for Christ and God's Truth, or the false and dead church, sailing without right under the banner of Christ?

The British and Foreign Bible Society published the following in 1899: "This society was instituted in 1804, with the object of circulating the Word of God throughout the world. Nearly thirteen millions sterling have been spent by it in the work of translating, revising, printing, and circulating the Scriptures, and more than one hundred and sixty millions of Bibles, Testaments and portions have issued from its depots in over *three hundred and sixty languages and dialects*, many of which have been reduced to writing for the first time. In this work the Society has been aided by every section of Christ's Church, by the leaders and friends of Christian enterprise, by scholars and philologists, among missionaries, foreign as well as British. There is no country in the world which has not felt the influence of this Society." Bear this in mind when considering Christ's prophecy: "And the Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24: 14.)

In conclusion let it be said that "our Bible" is far truer, far grander probably than any have ever believed.

There are two widely divergent classes of people who look upon its sacred pages from opposite standpoints, the deniers, and the professed believers, each strangely wide of the mark of truth.

First, the skeptical, the intellectually vain and conceited, the boasting infidel and now and then a reckless dare-devil sort of a person with sufficient temerity to proclaim himself an atheist. These are grovelling in the mire of animal barnyards and cannot, of course, apprehend or even discern anything spiritual. They are the human fruit of evil influence exerted by the opposite class of people, those of ignorant, blind faith, good enough, may be, were it not for the deplorable fact that their making of Biblical interpretation so much of positive contradiction and farce, as to be in direct disobedience of the divine mandate contained in the Bible itself. Many good people have felt impelled to relinquish belief and hope in Bible and Religion and God because of false interpretation and teaching.

Second, those of blind faith, loudly professed, while at the same time they know they are disobeying Christ and the Bible as a complete whole, by ignoring the commands thereof, such as the Sermon on the Mount, living and doing by which always has been and ever will be quite sufficient. By such living and doing there would be no such violation of God's commands. On the contrary there would be a true spiritual unfoldment insuring

due knowledge and appreciation of God and His REVEALED TRUTH!

How many have exclaimed, "Oh Religion! what crimes have been committed in thy name!" With like truth we exclaim, Oh Bible! what gross frauds, what crimes have been perpetrated in thy name! What a terrible crime. Who can specify a greater crime against human rights, liberty, justice; against God and His irrevocable commands, than that of the powers of the church making it a crime punishable with diabolical torture, and then death to any of the God-fearing laity in whose possession should be found a copy of the Bible! Think, think of it! A crime to have and to read the Word of God intended for the instruction, edification and blessing of *all* His children without regard to racial or other distinction or difference! Look at history and blush with shame and indignation! History which discloses the horrors of worse than than cannibalistic crimes, and as late as the 15th century, recording the most damnable fiendish tortures and murders of people in England, and in the iniquitous Spanish Inquisition — for what crimes? Merely and only for being guilty of reading the Word of Revealed Truth of God!

Verily, in every age of the world the church of hellish negation, misnamed the church of God, has ever resisted and opposed the new and true revelations of Divine Truth, and has abused, tortured and killed, if possible, those who endeavored, as

true children of God, to obey the Divine Principles of Love, Truth, Mercy, progress and development commands clearly promulgated and intended by the Beneficent Creator for the real and true attainment of *all* the children of God.

But, and worse still, human progress in every age has been bitterly opposed by "the church," not only in matters spiritual, but in nearly every way. Look to the days of the American Revolution! Note the red pages of anti-slavery history! Who will presume to question the accuracy and justice of Christ's words of condemnation of the false clergy who, nevertheless, have the brazenness to call themselves ministers of Christ? Verily it is the truth which hurts!

PROPHECY

CHAPTER V

HRIST said "It is written in the Prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me." (St. John 6 : 45.)

The Messengers of God with the Word (His Truth) are directed to : "Go through, go through the gates ; prepare ye the way of the people ; cast up, cast up the highway ; gather out the stones ; lift up a standard for the people." (Isaiah 62 : 10)

"Behold, I will send My Messenger (Elijah,) and he shall prepare the way before Me : and the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His Temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in : behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." (Malachi 3 : 1.)

"O, My Friends ! Have ye forgotten that clear bright morn when ye were all in My Presence in that blessed plain under the shade of the Tree of Anyssa (the Tree of Life named in Gen. and Rev.), planted in the Greatest Paradise ; when I spake unto ye three Blessed Words, the hearing of which confounded ye all? These are those Words : 'O, friends, choose not your pleasure instead of Mine ; never wish for that which I have not ordained for ye, and approach Me not with dead minds stained

with desire and hope. If ye purify your hearts, ye will ponder over the state of the plain of that Court, and then My explanation will be known to ye all.'" (The Word of God through Baha' Ullah.)

In the eighth of the Lines of Holiness, in the fifth Tablet of Paradise, He commands, saying:

"O, dead men on the bed of negligence! Centuries have passed, and ye have ended your precious lives; yet not a single pure soul hath ever come to Our Field of Holiness. Ye are talking in Oneness, while ye are drowned in the sea of polytheism. Ye have loved the one (world — carnal conditions) which is hated by Me, and ye have taken My enemy as your own friend; ye are walking with the greatest pleasure and mirth upon My earth, heedless that My earth detests you, and that the things of the earth are fleeing from you. If ye open your eyes but a little, ye will know that a hundred thousand griefs are better than thy pleasure, and will count death as more to be preferred than this life."

The prophets have been the mediums through whom the heavenly teachings have come. One prophetic dispensation or cycle has constantly followed another. At every time of the renewal of God's Covenant of His Religion with His creatures, it is evident that the Truth has always come in a manner, of simplicity and purity, calculated to deceive those arrogant people suffering with too much pride of intellect and self-righteousness.

These are the ones referred to by the prophet Isaiah (6 : 9-10) "Hear ye, indeed, but understand not; and see ye, indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."

Christ said: "Because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." (Matt. 13 : 13.) "Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not?" (Mark 8 : 18.)

In the dawning time of every new religious dispensation of the past, the clergy has ever been the generation of vipers, to deny and oppose God's Revelation. It is so now in the Orient. Will it be the same here, or will our clergy learn from the past?

The prophets or messengers of God have always spoken in a tongue, used terms containing hidden meanings; employed words or signs which veiled in symbology the true intended meaning of which has never been nor could be understood by any who were not versed in the mysteries of God, that is to say, who were not sufficiently created, developed or grown into a spiritual state or condition, to be able to apprehend, to recognize, to grasp and understand spiritual things,—the things which are godly. All lacking or deficient, as above, only comprehend the mere literal, the letter of the words or symbols, but not the real spiritual Truth,

the inner or spiritual significance for perfected man.

The sacred Scriptures, the most ancient, as well as the later revelations of God's Truth, through His inspired prophets and messengers, are all known and provable to be absolutely true and in harmonious accord, so far as the spiritual teachings, laws, commandments and prophecies are concerned.

Mankind in the earlier ages was less able and prepared to receive, understand and appropriate those words of Truth than now, but all along down the ages, growth and development have been logically, orderly progressive in advancement; slowly, it may seem, but always and steadily onward and upward, so that each succeeding age has witnessed this: that man has been serially, orderly, successively more ready to perceive and receive, understandingly, higher and more complete teachings, than was true of the preceding age.

God, the Eternal Creator and Sustainer of all, being unchangeably perfect, and all Truth and Knowledge emanating from Him, it is absolutely self-evident that His Revealed Truth was just as certainly, as rigidly true and correct through His earliest, as through His latest prophets.

It being clearly apparent that in the earlier ages the further back we go, the less do we find that man was able to receive, it is equally clear that the amount of teaching imparted was much less

and that much of that which was imparted was clothed in mere figure, letter, symbol, allegory and parable, conveying a certain meaning, interpreted literally and outwardly, and a far different, higher and more beautiful and complete meaning, when interpreted correctly from the inward or spiritual significances, always from the beginning intended to be understood by man, when, in his upward march, he should become able to interpret, assimilate and abide by higher or spiritual things prepared for him "since the foundation of the world !"

This is corroborated by Christ in His declaration that He had much to give the world, but the world was not then ready, but He would come again "after a little" (1900 years is but a little with God and His world building) and then all would be made plain.

"It is perceived that the whole train of events recorded, the whole of those lofty, impassioned strains of poetry which distinguish the volume, are precursory and prophetic of a great change, which, at a future period, was to be wrought on the moral properties and fate of mankind, by the coming to the earth of a Messiah." (Kitto's Bible History.) And far more too, for it presaged not only the coming of the Messiah in Christ, but the later coming of the Manifestation of God, the Father, to establish the Kingdom of God upon earth, just as taught by Christ and the prophets, all of whom clearly foretold the coming of the Day of God !

A prophet appearing may be known to be a true one:

1. If he manifests great knowledge and cures the sin sick world of infidelity which is changed into unity; changes faithlessness into faith; ignorance into wisdom; discord into harmony; hatred and hostility into love, and treachery into trustworthiness.

2. Through the power he manifests, which overcomes and subdues the world, in spite of opposition from all people, including the prophet's own family. The Power of God is Invincible!

"The tree is known by his fruit" (Matt. 12:33). Moses shows in Deut. 18 how to tell the true from the false prophets. We know a false prophet because he seeks and clings to worldly power and riches. No true prophet of God does that. God's Kingdom is spiritual as Christ said. The invincible power, the penetration of the words of Christ was the greatest proof of His Divine Station, yet the world was so dense that it was centuries before Christianity became effective by being recognized by a *world* power through the Roman Cæsars.

A prophetic day is the world period lapsing from the departure of one prophet, until the appearance of another.

"It is not strange that one prophet announced himself as the 'Friend of God,' another as the 'Interlocutor of God,' one as the 'Apostle of God,' another as the 'Son of God,' and another as God

Himself." Study Christ's parable of the Lord of the Vineyard. (Luke 20.)

"In respect to the ever-increasing utterance and manifested power of the successive prophets, note the following parable: 'A certain king holding sway over a vast empire, desired to discover with his own eyes the causes of disorder, et ectera. He decided to go himself in disguise and mix with the people. He went as an army officer bearing his own letter as king introducing himself. Matters improved and then he proclaimed himself as the king's own minister, producing a letter as before. Last of all he threw off all disguise and showed himself as the king. Now he was all the time the king, though he was not so known. There was no real difference in his power and majesty. So it is with the Divine Will or Universal Reason which, becoming manifest from time to time for our guidance, declares itself now as the Apostle, then as the Son, and last of all God himself.'" (Browne's "Persia," p. 399.)

Every Religious Dispensation or Prophetical Day has its four seasons as has the year. As the four annual seasons result from the movement of the earth rather than from the sun's movements, so the four Cycle seasons result from the action of wilful and disobedient man, and not from the decree of God.

"As the close of a Cycle draws near mankind drifts into a cold and dreary winter of farness from

God. Then comes the new prophet with his message of Truth bringing the springtime of the awakening and quickening of souls into life and hope. Summertime follows with a large growth of followers. The crop is bounteous and convictions become settled, but finally the autumn time arrives with its chilly frosts of disagreeing and contending minds and a gradual falling away from the Truth of God, being attracted by the glitter and eloquence of the world and lured into factional divisions and strifes, till finally the cold and bleak winter time is again reached, finding the people falling away from Truth, keeping up only the outward form of religious observance.

"We have just begun to emerge from a long dreary winter following the Great Christ Dispensation. The Lord of the entire Universe has again manifested the Sun of His Truth, the eternal Truth of God, the only thing which is unchangeable. Does the great event find the the world dwelling in brotherly love, peace and harmony? We wish we could answer in the affirmative, but truth bids us acknowledge that such is not the case.

"No one can say that Christ did not lay the foundation of Religion sublimely, no one can lay the blame upon Him or upon God, consequently we must admit that the world has not been content to practice the virtues contained in the beautiful, simple teachings of Christ, but has persisted in

disobedience. Christ and the prophets gave distinct instructions. Instead of obeying the teachings and commands which are couched in plain and simple terms, we have sought to interpret and understand the things that were concealed within symbol, allegory and parable, and, as it was explicitly stated, were not to be understood until the "time of the end," when the One worthy to open and read the Book would appear. (Rev. 5 :)

"It is high time to pray to be delivered from superstition and imagination. Many ages back the wrong doing in disobedience began and later ages have clung closer to that than to the things Christ and the prophets mapped out for us. (Read Isa. 53 ; St. John 1 ; Isa. 6 :9-10.)

"The 'trumpet call' (the voice of angels or Truth of God) on the Second Coming of Christ, will be heard only by His sheep, that is to say, the true believers in God, at first, for they are like unto Him in spirit, consequently they are His elect! The Word of God draws the believers as the magnet draws the iron. The magnet will not attract brass, zinc, copper or even gold ; it influences iron and steel only. The spiritually wise understand and believe. The foolish and unwise will not." ("Signs of the Prophet," by Harris, p. 6, and Browne's "A Year Amongst the Persians".)

As a rule (probably unvarying) every prophet or messenger of God to the world has been greater than his predecessor, that is, hehas manifested a greater Word, a greater work, as already stated, and

this because the world has been steadily becoming more ready to receive and understand higher teachings. The growth and development of mankind, from the time when man was a mere animal up to the present time has been a long process but always serially and orderly. The identity of the prophets is in one thing always equal and the same, and that is in the Spirit or Word of God manifested in and through them.

We have spoken of two ways for determining whether a prophet be a true one. In reality there are four great proofs of prophethood:

1. The book which is given to the prophet, (revealed from God), namely, the Words of Truth from God: such for instance as The Law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, and The New Testament.

2. The power which the prophet possesses by which he converts the people, leading them from darkness to light wholly without official power, money, or earthly authority, but only with the power and authority from God.

3. The mighty works and signs promulgated by them.

4. The glad tidings from the former prophets concerning those to come later. Christ was foretold by practically all the former prophets, but there was far more prophecy of His second coming than of His first coming.

Here are some eloquent words from Professor

Edward G. Browne's "A Year Amongst the Persians," concerning true wisdom and knowledge: "The signs whereby the prophet is known are these: though untaught in the learning esteemed of men, he is wise in true wisdom; he speaks a word which is creative and constructive; his work so deeply affects the hearts of men that for it they are willing to forego wealth and comfort, fame and family, even life itself. What the prophet says, comes to pass. Consider Mohammed. He was surrounded by enemies, he was scoffed at and opposed by the most powerful wealthy of his people; he was derided as a mad man, treated as an inposter. But his enemies have passed away and his word remains. He said: 'You shall feast in the month of Ramazan,' and behold, thousands and thousands obey that word to this day. He said: 'You shall make a pilgrimage to Mecca if you are able,' and every year brings thither countless pilgrims from all quarters of the globe. This is a special character of the prophetic word; it fulfils itself; it creates; it triumphs.

"Kings and rulers strove to extinguish the word of Christ, but they could not; and now kings and rulers make it their pride that they are Christ's servants. Against all opposition, against all persecution, unsupported by human might, what the prophet says comes to pass. This is a true miracle, the greatest possible miracle, and indeed the only miracle which is proof to future ages and

distant peoples. . . . When a man rises amongst a people, untaught and unsupported, yet speaking a word which causes empires to change, hierarchies to fall, and thousands to die willingly in obedience to it, that is a proof absolute and positive that the word spoken is from God. This is the proof to which we point in support of our religion. (Bahaism.) What you have already learned concerning its origin will suffice to convince you that in no previous manifestation was it clearer and more complete."

The following is a further quotation of a statement by Babis in Persia: "Each of the prophets is a manifestation of one of the Names (or attributes) of God. The name manifested in the Bab was the highest of all,—Wahid, the One. Hence it is that 19 is, amongst the Babis, the sacred number according to which all things are arranged, the months of the year, the days of the months, the chapters in the Beyan, the fines imposed for certain offences and many other things, for 19 is the numerical value of the word *Wahid* according to the *abjad* notation in which every letter has a numerical equivalent, and each word a corresponding number formed by the addition of its component letters. This sacred number was manifested even at the first appearance of the Bab, for 18 of his fellow students at once believed in him. These 18 are called the "Letters of the Living," because they were the creative agents employed by the Bab

for bestowing new life upon the world, and because the numerical value of the word *Hayy* is 18. All of them were inspired, and persuaded by the Bab, the One (Wahid) and with him constitute the manifested unity (Wahid of 19).

"Thus the visible church on earth was a type of the One God, one in essence, but revealed through the Names, whereby the essence can alone be comprehended. But this is not all; each of the 19 members of the "Unity" gained 19 converts, so that the primitive church comprised 361 persons in all. This is called the "Number of all things," for 361 is the square of 19, and the further expansion thereof, as is also the numerical equivalent of the word Kullu Shey, which means "All Things." This is why the Babi year, like the Beyan, is arranged according to the number of 19 months of 19 days each. But the Babi is a solar year containing 366 days. These five additional days are added at the beginning of the last month, which is the month of fasting, and are commanded to be spent in entertaining one's friends, and the poor, as is written in the Kitab-i-Akdas."

In the earlier ages the words of the prophets had to be taken wholly on faith, Now we have the facts of history—the fulfilment of the prophetic word—in addition to the faith which all true children of God must have. In such, Faith is just as *certain* as is *instinct* in the lower animals. This everyone is bound to recognize.

For instance, that remarkable prophecy of Moses in the 33rd chapter of Deut. verse 2, (hereinafter referred to more particularly) has seemed meaningless these many ages for want of adequate interpretation. Until recently, the remarkable wealth of truth contained therein, has, like an undiscovered gold mine of fabulous value, been ignored by those who have been wholly oblivious or dead to the real truth.

Faith is a distinct and very high phase or characteristic of the human soul or being. It is just as much a known quantity as is instinct in the lower animals, but its high station is only to be realized by such as recognize the scientific fact of the Divine Father and who sincerely seek the Kingdom.

Faith is something which cannot be weighed in a grocer's scales or measured by a yard stick; the same is true regarding the principle of mathematics, yet both are equally facts.

The Mosaic prophecy can now be understood and accepted by the mere intelligence and without special exercise of faith, because it has not only been fully explained but actually fulfilled, as will be shown hereafter.

The reality of religion is practical. It is in reality *common sense* and *scientific fact!*

The most important thing in all the world is the real Man, which is Spirit, and his relation to

God, and how to accomplish the real object for which we are here on the earth.

Common sense, science, and religion are, indeed, "one and inseparable" And all come from God, the One Source of All Truth!

In all the ages there has been no greater "miracle" than Prophecy!

SYMBOLIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

THE TRUE MEANING INTERPRETED

CHAPTER VI

MANY of the Biblical words were employed to express other and far higher than the ordinary literal meaning. Of this fact the Bible itself is replete with irrefutable proofs. Words and other symbols, so frequently employed in prophecy, the most important of Biblical teachings, found from the beginning to the end of the Bible, notably in the most remarkable of all Books, Revelation, absolutely the greatest of all books of Prophecy, express both a literal or physical or outward meaning, and an inner, higher and spiritual significance. The latter, of course, is revealed only through spiritual interpretation and, obviously, only to those who are sincere and spiritually minded.

Jesus Christ declared: "These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs, but the time cometh when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you plainly of the Father." (John 16 : 25).

There is no room for doubting Christ's meaning that God the Father Himself would come to the world, that is to say, that God's WORD would be manifest in the flesh, a human body or temple,

in the station of the Father, the Lord of the Vineyard! Is not this just as natural as the lesser stations of the prophets and the dearly Beloved Son? (Read Isa. 9 : 6-7 ; chapter 35 ; 62 : 1-4 ; 65 : 9-10 ; Ezek. 20 : 40-49.)

"Alpha and Omega." See "Trumpet."

"Ancient of Days" clearly refers to and was prophecy of the coming of the Manifestation of God as the Creator and Father Himself, for none other could be given or have "dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him : His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Dan. 7 : 9-14 ; Rev. 1 : 8, 10, 12-17 and 5 : 4-7.)

In time, and that time is rapidly drawing near, the whole world will know that this wonderful prophecy was the *Glory of God Manifestation*, the Father, the "Lord of the Vineyard" as prophesied by Jesus Christ and other prophets.

"Angels." "When the Son of Man shall come in His Glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His Glory." (Matt. 25 : 31.)

Angels are the true and faithful believers in God's Truth on the earth at the time of the coming of the Son of Man. This is clearly apparent; that, as the coming of the Son of Man is His (Spirit) coming in the human form, it must be the same with the Angels, that is, that they too

would be on earth, consequently, it must be a fact that angels here refer to the true and faithful believers *on earth*—not to "spirits" or beings of another or spiritual realm!

The angels are the true believers, the "sheep," as distinguished from the "goats," the unbelievers.

Read Christ's parable of the Kingdom of Heaven being "likened unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." (Matt. 13 : 33.)

Jesus spoke in parables to the multitudes "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parable ; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." (verses 34-5.)

His parable of the good seeds and the tares, just preceding the above, has also the spiritual significance of referring to the believers and the unbelievers, and surely foretells the coming of the Day of God. Speaking of the good and the bad seed He spoke against plucking up the tares then, saying: "Let them both grow up together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them : but gather the wheat into my barn." (Matt. 13 : 30.)

His disciples asked Him to explain this parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them : "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man ; the field is the world ; the good seed

are the children of the Kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the *angels*. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of the world. The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity." (Matt. 13: 37-41.) And verse 49, following the parable of the hidden treasure and the net and fishes: "So shall it be at the end of the world: The *angels* shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just."

At this present time, which is the real "end of the world," Christ (the Word; the Spirit of the Sonship of God; the Way, the Truth, the Life) was to come again: "For the Son of Man shall come in the Glory of His Father with his angels: and then He shall reward every man according to his works." (Matt. 16: 27.)

Paul in his Epistles to the Ephesians (1: 21) refers to "every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Angels on earth are the elect, or true believers, and doers; those who are faithful and steadfast to Christ and God.

"God was to be *manifest* in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of Angels," (1 Tim. 3: 16) in the Kingdom of God on earth. And (5: 21) Paul

says: "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another," etc.

Paul to the Hebrews (1 : 6) said: "And again, when He bringeth in the first begotten (of the Spirit, Christ, the Sonship Manifestation of God) into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him." And verses 13-14: "But to which of the angels said He at any time, sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies thy foot-stool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Here is a positive proof through the revelation of Christ that "angels" were of the earth, for the "seven churches" referred to were of the earth:

"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in thy right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." (Rev. 1 : 20.)

Read also the second and third chapters of Revelation.

From the words of the prophets, beginning with Moses, we see clearly that the word "angel" refers to the pure, true believers in God and His Truth on *earth*, as well as those beyond us in spiritual realms.

"Behold, I send an angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared." (Ex. 23 :30.) This was the Word of God, speaking through the prophet, instructing physical man on the material earth, and it is obvious that the angel must be seen of material eyes, and must have been also in the flesh, rather than a spirit in another realm. We must never lose sight of the positive fact that God and His creation and laws are perfect, and that it is inconceivable that Perfect God could or would violate His Perfect Law!

"To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing; and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth." (2 Sam. 14 : 20.) This lord is an earthly king, and it is evident that his being wise was comparable to an earthly angel, that is to say, a believer so true and pure as to have reflected in him the spirit and truth of God.

"The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; the Lord is among them, *as in Sinai*, in the holy place." (Psa. 68 : 17.) This also clearly refers to earthly angels or believers. Mt. Sinai was and is of the earth, and "Who maketh his Angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire," (Psa. 104 : 4), is the same as all who are thoughtful and spiritually awakened must be able to perceive. It is evident, however, that by "min-

isters" is meant true ministers; not of the pharisaical sort so roundly denounced by Christ and all of the great and true prophets of God.

"Beast" and "Whale" were employed as symbols of tyrannical earthly kings: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." (Dan. 7 : 17.) "Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, thou art like a young lion of the nations, thou art as a Whale in the seas, etc." (Ezek. 32 : 2.) Remember this when considering the story of spiritual significance and purpose regarding Jonah and the whale.

"Bread." When Christ said: "This is the *bread* which cometh down from heaven; that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living *bread* which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this *bread*, he shall live forever; and the *bread* that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6 : 50-51.) He certainly meant the word "bread" to symbolize the spiritual Truth or Word or Teachings of God, because:

1. Material or physical bread could *not* come from the spiritual realm.

2. The bread to which Christ referred was obviously to feed the soul, spirit of the life of man —not his physical body!

3. The physical body is for the material, temporal world; not for "forever!"

"City." This word was employed symbolically to indicate the religion or spiritual Truth of and from God. This was to come in fullness, completeness and perfection at "the end of time," and all that has gone before has led up to this great reality.

"And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride for her husband. And I heard a great Voice out of heaven saying: Behold, the tabernacle of God is with man, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and *God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.*" (Rev. 21 : 2-3·)

We have seen in Ezekiel that all mankind (flesh) shall see God—on earth, of course.

"And the Word became flesh, and pitched His tent amongst us ; and we gazed upon His Glory." (John 1 ; 14, Rotherham.)

"Cloud." This word used in reference to the second coming of the Christ or Messiah Spirit of the World, signified the human body, the earthly temple or dwelling place of the spirit of real man, and more, the Messenger Spirit as the educator of and from God ; materiality, earthly conditions, or human ignorance which veils men from the spiritual Truth of God.

"And Moses went up into the Mount, and a Cloud covered the Mount. And the glory of the Lord abode upon Mt. Sinai, and the Cloud cov-

ered it six days; and the seventh day He called unto Moses out of the midst of the Cloud. And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel." (Ex. 24: 15-17.) "And the Lord descended in the Cloud, and stood with him (Moses) there and proclaimed the Name of the Lord." (Ex. 34: 5) "And the Lord said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail (or veil?) before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: (spiritual death) for I will appear in the Cloud upon the mercy seat." (Lev. 16: 2.) "And the Lord came in a *Cloud*, and spake unto him (Moses)." (Num. 11; 23.) "And the Lord came down in the pillar of the Cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. And He said, Hear now My Words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision" etc. (Num. 12; 5-6.)

"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the Cloud filled the House of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the Cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord. "(1 Kings 8:10-11.)

"And the glory of the Lord went up from the Cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house;

and the house was filled with the Cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord's glory." (Ezek. 10 : 4.)

"And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a Cloud with power and great glory." (Lu. 21 : 27.)

"And I looked, and behold a white Cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle." (Rev. 14 : 14.)

This prophecy revealed by Christ through St. John, regarding His second coming in the flesh, was prophesied by Daniel the prophet 550 years B. C. : "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of Man came with the Clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, (that is to say, to and with the manifestation of God, Himself) and they brought him near before Him." (Dan. 7 : 13.)

The following verse, together with all these quotations, shows conclusively that the word Cloud is not to be taken literally, but as a symbol. Furthermore they show that the Word of God always comes in a cloud—is manifested in and on the low plane of man, in material conditions and environments, so as to be within the reach of the physical man, that is, human beings on the earthly plane : "While He, (Christ) yet spake, behold a bright Cloud overshadowed them : and behold a voice out of the Cloud, which said, This is My beloved Son,

in whom I am well pleased : hear ye Him." (Matt. 17 :15.)

"Behold, He cometh with Clouds ; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him ; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so Amen." (Rev. 1 :7.)

Man has been woefully in error all the ages since Christ in believing that on His second coming He would come to the earth in a literal, physical, rain cloud of the air. We have persisted in this foolish belief in the very face and eyes of the declaration of Christ that ; "Spirit hath not flesh and bones." (Luke 24 : 39.) How very foolish it has been to hold that flesh and bones could come from the spiritual realm. The grand Apostle Paul said : "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." (1 Cor. 15 : 50.)

"Day." This word has many meanings. It is to be interpreted in accordance with the spirit, harmony and conditions in which it is employed.

The first meaning is that of the ordinary day of 24 hours. This is clear and requires no argument. In applying this to the resurrection of Christ in three days, over which there has ever been and is so much lack of understanding, the interpretation by one of our greatest world teachers is substantially as follows : After the crucifixion, by reason of the tyranny and wickedness of the Jews, who strove in all their might to uproot and annihilate the mission and words of Jesus and His followers,

the blessed name of Jesus Christ was not mentioned by or among the disciples and followers during the three ordinary days and nights, hence the Sun of Truth was outwardly buried or concealed during that period of time. At this time Peter, the Moon reflected light of Christ's teachings, and all the others were greatly depressed, indeed discouraged. On the expiration of these three days and nights, Mary Magdalen, whose undaunted conviction, faith, courage and steadfastness, caused her name to be perpetually honored, perseveringly devoted herself to the work of calling the disciples from their places of retirement into the presence of Peter. Thus was the work of Christ's mission resumed and continued after "three days"; thus did the body of Christ's immortal teachings arise from the grave of temporary disappearance. This great work has continued down through all the ages, under varying and frequently disturbing conditions and obstacles, until all the civilized world has heard the glorious Message of Divine Truth revealed from God through the lowly Nazarene. But what a sad falling away from the true spirit of those Glad Tidings is witnessed on all sides.

The *second* interpretation of the word "Day" applies to the period of one of our ordinary years. According to the learned Jewish doctors, "Youm Leshan" in Hebrew means "a day for a year." Most of our Christian scholars have relied upon

this interpretation in their commentaries on the Old and New Testaments.

"After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years and ye shall know My breach of promise." (Num. 14 : 34)

"I have appointed thee *each day for a year*." (Ezek. 4 : 6.)

The important dates in the eighth and twelfth chapters of Daniel and Revelation 11 and 12 and other prophecies of vast significance and importance, have been interpreted in this way of "a day for a year" by the learned Jewish and Christian scholars. This meaning does not apply in the interpretation of the "Resurrection of Christ after three days."

The *third* interpretation may be said to obtain in reference to certain material periods of time, such as the Day or period of Cyrus, of David, of Solomon, or in our country, the Day of Lincoln, of Grant, etc.

The *fourth* meaning of the word "Day" applies to "one thousand years," called the "Lordly Day." "For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." (Psa. 90 : 4.)

"But, beloved be not ignorant of this one thing, that one Day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one Day." (2 Pet. 3 : 8.)

This interpretation applies to one phase of the Christ millenium referred to in His revelation through St. John, but does not apply in the great matter of the reality of Resurrection.

The *fifth* interpretation is more especially spiritual and is of the most vital importance. It assuredly refers to the Days of the prophets or messengers of God; to the religious dispensations, cycles or ages, during which the teachings or revelations of the particular prophet or messenger, inaugurating his respective Day or dispensation, prevail or hold good or remain effective or in force, or are supposed to, so to speak, and until his successor appears with a more elaborate or later standard of guidance for the world.

Each of these "Days" or prophetic periods of time, comprises a day-time and a night-time. The day-time is the period during which the prophet is alive on earth and His glorious sun of Truth is manifest and alive among the people. The night-time of such period is the time lapsing from the departure of the prophet until the coming of a succeeding prophet or messenger, or the later part of his dispensation, when the divine spiritual teachings through him have become darkened, veiled, obscured and dead through the neglect of the people who have fallen away from the Truth, always more markedly observed toward the close of each dispensation or great Day! The thoughtful cannot fail to notice the great falling away of the

Mohammedans from the teachings of Mohammed, and of the Christians from the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The day of Moses lasted from the beginning of his mission and work until the coming of Jesus Christ.

Christ referred to His Day-time lasting during His being on the earth and His night-time being the period of time lasting from His departure until the coming of the next divine messenger, when He declared: "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is Day: the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." (John 9: 4-5.) What could be plainer?

Undoubtedly the resurrection days were in reality intended to be interpreted spiritually. They certainly meant prophetic days or cycles. No other interpretation is possible.

In interpreting the Christ resurrection, in spirit and in truth, the unalterable fact is this; that we are now living in the beginning of the *third Day or dispensation* of religion or spiritual Truth from Christ, as follows: First, the Day of Christ; Second, the Day of Mohammed (and we are foolish if we deny it) and, Third, the greatest of all Days, that heralded by the return of the Advancer Spirit of Elijah the Prophet, returning the second time as John the Baptist, and now the third time as the Bab, who announced the Day of God, which

was inaugurated by His Holiness, Baha' Ullah, the manifestation of God, in His great and divine station of Fatherhood, exactly as was foretold and described by Christ and the prophets! Read carefully Christ's famous parable of the Lord and the Vineyard, depicting, when rightly interpreted and construed, this whole matter.

It is difficult to realize, but a fact nevertheless, that we are now really living in the actual time of the real resurrection—the return of the spirit of Christ *with the Father*, as promised!

This is the early dawn of the "Day of Most Great Peace!"

The gloriously divine work of this great dispensation was to be continued by the servant of God and of humanity, living the Christ Life! From His hand is going forth "a fiery law," that is, the spiritual teachings of God, from whence Christ left off 1900 years ago, to all the world; to "my sheep," those who are true and faithful and "know the Shepherd's voice." In Him is fulfilled the Christ prophecy: "Ye shall be known by your *works*," and another, this: in becoming the least in humility, sacrifice and servitude, He shall become the greatest in the Kingdom of God on earth! He is the one referred to in Zech. 3: 8: "For behold I will bring forth My servant the Branch!" Abdul Baha is "The Greatest Branch!" And, "Behold the man whose name is the Branch and he shall grow up out of his place and shall build the Temple of the Lord." (Zech. 6: 12.)

Verily, now, in this very time, is the reality of the resurrection of the manifest Word, the Christ!

We have been very foolish to believe in the resurrection of the material, physical body. Such a thing is impossible. God's Laws are irrevocable, immutable! Neither God nor any of His manifesting servants ever have, will or can violate His perfect laws!

All progress is attained by becoming dead to the old and lower life and condition. The 15th. chapter of 1 Cor. must be interpreted spiritually, as Paul intended. This great Apostle declared: "I die daily."

"Emmanuel." See "Word."

"Flesh." It is impossible to interpret literaly this word used by Christ in connection with "bread." It would be absurd to contemplate it in any other way than intended to symbolize a spiritual truth. It is obvious that Christ meant that He gave His life *as an example for us to follow.* If we do this we will surely be born *again —born of the spirit* and thus *inherit the kingdom and "live forever." There is no possible way* for us to live forever from eating material "flesh" or "bread." None other than those who are thus born of the spirit and are able to apprehend Christ and His words and works according to their true spiritual significance, really believe in Jesus Christ, for to believe in reality is to *understand!*

"Bread," "blood" and "flesh," when used by

Christ as above, certainly signify *the real teachings of God's Truth.*

If we read carefully, with a yearning, upward desire for the reality of Truth, verses 9-14 of the seventh chapter of Daniel, we will be able to perceive the true meaning of the following words to be as below expressed.

"Fiery flame" and "fiery stream" must have been intended to portray the reality of spiritual truth or teachings promised to issue from the One who should come in this very time to set up the Kingdom on earth. "For our God is a consuming *fire.*" (Heb. 12 :29.) "For, behold the Lord (and His truth) will come with fire" and "for by fire and by His sword (vide) will the Lord plead with all flesh :" (all mankind.) (Isa. 66 : 15-16.) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance : but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear : He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with Fire !" (John the Baptist in Matt. 3 : 11.) Christ said : "I am come to send fire (spiritual truth) on the earth." (Luke 12 : 49) "Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire." (Heb. 1 : 7.) "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire." (2 Peter. 3 : 12.)

"Heaven" is not necessarily some place far off. In an important sense it is placeless. The word heaven used so often in the gospels and Old Tes-

tament, means a *condition*,—a superior, a spiritual condition or state.

The Lord, speaking through His Prophet Isaiah, said: "For, behold I create new Heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." (Isa. 65 : 17.) "Thus said the Lord, the Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool." (66 :1.) By all of this the meaning appears to be, that the divine realm ever was, is and ever will be, the habitation, so to speak, of God in spiritual perfection, and that He has ever been giving us a higher teaching of the Heaven of His Truth, successively, continually as we have grown upward, developed, been gradually created unto the higher station to be able to apprehend such higher teachings.

Let us read these words thoughtfully, seeking the power of keen spiritual insight: "Howbeit the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is My throne and earth is My footstool: what house will ye build Me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?" (Acts 7 : 48-9.)

"And I saw a new Heaven and a new earth: for the first Heaven and the first earth were passed away." (Rev. 21 :1.) This was clear prophecy of the passing away of the old heaven and earth—the old religious and material conditions and understandings, and the coming of the new Truth; knowledge of Truth, with the perfect day of God.

Abdul Baha has written that Jesus Christ was on earth and in Heaven at the same time!

"Horn" also was employed as a symbol to portray the Voice of the Truth of God.

"I beheld then because of the Voice of the great words which the Horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, (the subjugation of the lower nature by the higher, the spiritual) and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame." (Dan. 7 : 11.) See "Trumpet." "Immanuel." See "Word."

"Miracles"—Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh. The interpretations of Pharaoh's dream by the worldly wise men were called sticks (q. v.) turning into serpents, that is to say, wise explanations; but the interpretation by Moses and Aaron, men of God, was a rod or staff, (q. v.) signifying the power of the truth of God, a wisdom far greater than that of the worldly wise men. The devouring of the lesser sticks or arguments was simply this: the invincible, incomparable Truth and Wisdom of God, reflected in His prophets, naturally superseded and brushed aside the foolish interpretations and explanations. Still our most learned Bible students and theologians have always given this symbolical story merely a literal interpretation.

"Reign." This has reference to spiritual reign as well as to rulership over a worldly kingdom.

"Resurrection." See "Day"—the fifth Day.

"Rod" and "Staff" signifies the power of the Truth of God; "the Divine Teachings where-

by the Divine Shepherd will rear the sheep of God." (Abdul Baha Abbas.)

"And He shall smite the earth with the Rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked." (Isa. 11: 4.)

It would be absurd to take this literally; it must be interpreted spiritually. Have this in mind when contemplating the biblical account of Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh.

"Saints." True and faithful believers in God and His spiritual Truth, who are in the flesh and on earth. "But the saints of the Most High shall take the Kingdom and possess the Kingdom forever, even forever and ever." (Dan. 7: 18.) This refers to the Kingdom on earth. "And He (Baha' Ullah) came with ten thousands of Saints." (Deut. 33: 2.) It will be remembered that this was the first time known to the world when a Manifestation of God came finding tens of thousands of Saints (believers) ready for and awaiting Him!

"Saviour" really means God: "And thou shalt know no God but Me, for there is no Saviour beside Me." (Hosea 13 : 4.)

This is thoroughly in accord with the utterances of Christ, who declared there was none good but God, Who, Christ also declared, did all of the Works. The Christian world has erred greatly in worshipping the individuality of Jesus. He and all of the divine messengers have always taught the world to worship God in oneness and singleness!

"Sceptre." The people of the Old Testament expected Jesus Christ to have an iron sceptre—a literal one. But Sceptre in that connection in reality signified the power or office of a shepherd leading his sheep and is likened unto a sword, i. e. the sword or power of the tongue and not that of iron or steel. The sword divides friends and enemies, and the sword, spiritually considered, of the Son of Reality, is that kind of a sword which separates enemies from friends; divides darkness from light and guidance from sedition. The tongue which divides Truth from falsehood is likened unto a sword. This was the meaning conveyed by Christ when He declared He came not to bring peace but a sword!

"Serpent" every one knows has ever been employed as a symbol of wisdom.

"Stick" was a word used in ancient times to signify the power of explanation, description or argument. (Ezek. 37: 16-20.)

"Sword," This word was used as a symbol of truth and justice dividing the good and the bad of mankind, and establishing judgment. "And out of His mouth went a sharp two edged Sword." (Rev. 1 : 16.) "And out of His mouth goeth a sharp Sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron," (Rev. 19 : 15.)

"Trumpet." This word symbolizes the Voice or Truth of God, when employed in reference to

the second coming of Christ and in many other places. How ridiculously absurd it has been to interpret this word Trumpet literally. How was it possible that there should or could be a material trumpet which could be *heard* throughout the earth? Still men of great ability have so held. Was not the power to exercise *reason* and *judgment*, and *common sense* given us to be employed rationally?

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind Me a great voice, as of a Trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last," etc. (Rev. 1 : 10-11,)

This not only indicates the true spiritual interpretation of the word Trumpet, but clearly refers to the Coming of the greatest of all manifestations of God, as Christ prophesied should be at some future time, to set up the Kingdom of God on earth. This only could be the reality of fulfilment of that great promise of the "Lord's Day." The Church has misinterpreted this and other great promises, and, seemingly, has forgotten that, instead of Christ establishing the Kingdom of God, He taught us in the Lord's Prayer to pray for the coming of *that great day!*

"Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last," could not, by any stretch of the imagination, refer to any one other and less than the Almighty God, the Most Glorious!

In Rotherham's literal translation of Hebrews

(12 :19) we read, "And a Trumpet's peal, and unto a sound of things spoken." This aids us better than does the ordinary translation, to truly interpret, spiritually, the real and intended meaning of the word Trumpet to signify the *Voice or Truth of God.* See "Horn."

"Water and Wine." "Water" signifies God's Truth or spirtual teachings. "Except a man be born of Water and of the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." (John 3 : 5.)

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give Me to drink; thou wouldst have asked of Him, and He would have given thee *living water!*" (John 4 : 10.)

The alleged miracle (John 2 :1-11.) of Jesus turning water into wine at the marriage feast was a great spiritual lesson of far reaching application. *Now* is the real time of the "Marriage Feast," when the former teachings, likened unto *water*, would be turned into *wine*, after three days (prophetic days or cycles) at the time of the *real resurrection!* The more we ponder over this, the more certain are we that this is the Truth.

A careful reading of the fourteenth chapter of Hosea, referring to the return of the people of Israel unto God on the Seventh Day of the world, clearly shows us that "Wine" was employed to signify a higher a more complete spiritual Truth or Teaching of God than was indicated by the

other symbolic Word in this connection—"Water." Hence now is the time of the real Marriage Feast typified by the great Christ lesson above: Now is the "Third Day" (Prophetic Day after Christ,) the time of the real "Marriage Feast!"

The recorders of history in those days had no conception of the vast significance presented by the events they undertook to portray, for Christ declared: "These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs." (John 16 : 25.)

"Waters," "wine," and "milk," each were used symbolically of the spiritual Truth of God. (Isa. 55 : 1.)

"Whale." See "Beast."

"Wine" clearly means the fullness of God's teachings, through Christ or otherwise, and is a higher symbol than is "Water," similarly as is "Staff or "Rod" a higher symbol than is the word "stick." (Rev. 16 : 19.)

In the fifteenth chapter of St. John we have clear proof that "wine," the fruit of the vines, was employed as a symbol of growth in spirit towards the Kingdom. "I am the true Vine and My Father is the Husbandman." "Ye are the branches." "Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away." (Mark 14 : 25.)

"Word." See chapter on "The Word."

A LAYMAN'S SERMON TO CLERGYMEN

THE DECADENCE OF TRUE RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

CHAPTER VII

Y sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10 : 27.)

All great religious systems have taught that religion was of the heart and not of the head.

Jesus Christ taught that the only way to attain was by being born again, born of the spirit, and that this was impossible without being simple and humble and possessed of a clean, pure heart.

The great Founder of Christianity declared that only those who should overcome the world of sin could be with Him (Rev. 3 : 20-21) ; that "My Kingdom is not of this world" (John 18 : 36) ; That He "came to bear witness unto the Truth. Everyone that is of the Truth heareth My Voice" (v. 37) ; that He would confess those who confessed Him (Luke 12 : 8-9) ; that whosoever was ashamed of Him, He would be ashamed of when He should come in another manifestation on the earth with the Father (Luke 9 : 26) ; and "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 18 : 3).

There seems to be nothing equivocal in these words of instruction, guidance, and command. There is no such thing as rising to true greatness without first attaining unto the "heights of humility." Yet it has been said that "our religious world is a conspicuous exhibition of arrogance, ostentatious display, and pride of intellect" on the part of the theological and clerical classes, as compared with the example of the One of whom they claim to be the called desciples or "ministers." These classes know there is no possible way to avoid the consequences of violation of the Christ teachings, for they preach such teachings themselves—to others. Let the searchlight and hose of truth be turned on the preachers as well as the world of mankind in general. If the cry for *reform* now comes from outside the priestly profession, it is not the first time.

The spectacle presented in a western city recently, of a man of colossal nerve, who has been called, perhaps properly, "a clerical mountebank," pronouncing himself before thousands of approving people as the divinely appointed of God, and presuming to enter into a material or worldly business partnership with God, may be without a parallel in world history.

The recent announcement to his congregation by a Roman Catholic priest in a nearby city, that nothing less than nickels should be placed in the collection plates, "as the Lord did not want nor

would He receive pennies," illustrates the deplorable absence of spirit in religious observance, but this man is not to be compared with or reckoned in the same "class" with the other man who juggles with the spiritual Truth of God, in the larger, more hypocritical, more spectacular way, for the purpose of accumulating gold, worldly power and renown.

It is as true as unfortunate, that the practice of turning the services of our great and fashionable churches over to business methods, when the minister occupies the time in conducting, in familiar auctioneer style, a regular business campaign for raising funds "for the Lord," as he says, is altogether too common, but the genuine mountebank, in his thrilling Barnum hippodrome spectacle, is of a truth, the very limit!

That such incidents, whether in our regular church fashion and practice, or by the mountebank par excellence plan, should be so common or so unsurprising as to provoke no protest, is a severe reflection upon the community.

Is our time the repetition of conditions existing at certain and quite regular stages of world growth and progress, when such great nations in the past as Syria, Persia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, etc., have, after attaining high development in the arts and sciences; after becoming in fact, mighty nations, mighty world powers, but later, and with comparative suddenness, met with all kinds of reverses, calamities and final dismemberment?

There is something of greater scope and importance than even the rise and fall of great nations. The true student of history finds that there have been larger, broader, more far reaching conditions and unfoldments, to which the successive rise and fall of nations is in a sense corollary, or synchronous in working out magnificent problems. In short we are unobservant if we have not seen that there have been six great world periods or divisions of time and accomplishment, reckoning from the earliest known history to the present. These periods or cycles, averaging about one thousand years each in duration, are properly enough called world "days," prophetic days or religious dispensations.

Now it is not difficult to see that toward the end of each of these great periods there has always been manifest a pronounced falling away from the higher and more spiritual teachings, obligations, and duties in an inverse ratio to the march in development of mere worldly achievement. It is the antithesis of the higher, the spiritual which misleads us into the false belief of development which is not real and true.

The important consideration now is this: have not we reached, in logical order of sequence, according to the law of history repeating itself, as disclosed by the presentation of the ever predicating signs and conditions, exactly that same inevitable state immediately preceding the fall? Have we not all the conditions constantly before us? Can we find in history a time when

Bible students and teachers were just as lacking in the power of true spiritual interpretation? Was there a former time when church administration was in such deplorable spiritual decadence and in the attitude of standing for literally the positive negation of God's Truth and Cause, as now observable in disobedience or neglect of the spirit of the Christ teachings? Do not these things show clearly enough that we are now in precisely the same state or condition, materially and intellectually, as were the ancient nations when they reached the zenith of power and glory? Is it not time to look for the beginning of the end—the inevitable, irretrievable fall—unless we learn and profit from the lessons of incomparable cost of the past?

Shall not there be and speedily, a re-awakening, a refreshing of God's pure Truth? Must not we leave off mammon-worship, especially in the church? What should prevent our performing the transformation act—changing from polytheism and insincerity to the worship and service of God in Oneness and Singleness, in spirit and in truth? Is it not time for the clergy, and all who assume to teach, to re-read carefully and prayerfully, Christ's matchless Sermon on the Mount, and preach it forth in thundering tones from pulpits, from everywhere? But first shall we not learn what it is to be a minister of Christ? Here is the answer in Christ's own words: "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be

My disciple." (Luke 14 : 33.) "Whosoever shall be great among you, shall be your minister; and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10 : 35-45.) And Paul declared: "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." (1 Cor. 9 : 19.)

The Sermon on the Mount compared with our degenerate church, clearly shows that we, as a Christian church and people, are far from living in accord with the Christ life, works, and teachings. It is admitted that the departure from the true path has been so gradual, covering so many centuries, that there are good excuses for present deplorableness, but since our eyes are now open, let us lose no time in regaining the long lost Path.

The church is, of course, more to blame than is the general public, and should lead in reform, but if it won't, then let there be a regeneration and upheaval of public opinion in the Name and service of God and His irrefutable, invincible, incomparable Truth!

There is no real reform without striking at the root. In the matter under consideration, *striking at the root*, is the supplanting of mere lip service with the actual *living the life individually!* The simple principles of the Sermon on the Mount must become literally a burning fire within the heart of ministers and all!

SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM

PART III CHAPTER I

HE signs of the Kingdom are fully given in the Bible. They must be interpreted according to original intent, —spiritually and not materially or literally. Had the Jews adhered to the spiritual teachings of Moses, they would have recognized and accepted Jesus Christ. Had the inhabitants of the Christian world truly embraced and kept hold of the simple but imperishably grand spiritual teachings of Christ, we would have become by this time far more numerous and His "sheep" (believers) instead of "goats" (unbelievers).

Christ and the prophets gave the signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. Let us consider some of them very briefly and then look at the proofs.

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." (Gen. 49 : 10.)

"The first shall say to Zion; behold, behold them, and I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings." (Isa. 41 : 27.)

The mission of Jesus Christ was to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom; "And Jesus went all about Galilee teaching in their synagogues and

preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom." (Matt. 4 : 23.) "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galillee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God." (Mark 1 : 14.) "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor: He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted : to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind ; to set at liberty them that are bruised ; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4 : 18-19.) "And He said unto them, I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also, for therefore am I sent." (Luke 4 : 43.)

First, Christ warned us to "Take heed that no man deceive you" and said that before the coming of that great event "many shall come in My name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matt. 24 : 5.) These we were to know by their preposterous claims to miraculous powers and wonders. We shall see that the true Messiah would prove His coming by His life and works only. By such; by the Truth He should bring, He would be known by His true and faithful followers.

Second, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, see that ye be not troubled ; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." And these the world has been and is now having, both materially and spiritually. There was never a time when there was so much controversy and

unrest in religious circles. This is largely due to to the erroneous habit of meddling with the sealed words of the Bible, striving to make impossible harmony out of their puny literal interpretation and refusing obedience to the really great though simple divinely given commands for world guidance.

Third, "For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places." The great social and industaial disturbances make, indeed, extremely troublous times and all is traceable to the universal disease of spiritual sickness. This is the natural result of starving the people, failure of the religious teachers to give out spiritual food, consequently the world is suffering from a great spiritual famine. But read the promised deliverance in Ezek 34: 11-12.

Fourth, "And many false brophets shall rise and deceive many." The multitudinous, visionary, false and conflicting teachings of these times furnish abundant proof of present fulfilment. There are now on earth many false claimants of the Christ and prophethood.

Fifth, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." It is noticed on all sides that every sort of inducement is offered by the preachers, but the churches remain comparatively empty, or destitute of religious faith.

The ministers are woefully lacking in spirituality and the true worship of God in Spirit and in Truth. Do not the ministers, far more than the congregation, need conversion?

Sixth, "And the Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. This prophecy of Christ has been fulfilled.

The Gospel has been preached in all nations and the Bible has been translated into more than three hundred and sixty languages and dialects and circulated throughout the world!

Seventh, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)"; (Matt. 24:15). The abomination of desolation has many interpretations. Suffice it here to mention the reference to the spiritual meaning,—that the denial of God and His Truth constitutes, in reality, the greatest abomination of desolation. There never was a time when there was so much farness from God, on the part of the world in general, as now! It is time, indeed, that we "flee into the mountains"—"seek the Kingdom of Heaven." Never in the world before was there such "great tribulation." It is high time indeed to seek the mountain of lofty attainment!

Eighth, "For as the lightning cometh out of the East, and shineth even unto the West, so shall

also the coming of the Son of Man be." It is impossible to interpret this literally. The lightning does not come "out of the East," but wherever the storm cloud bursts. The true spiritual interpretation is in order, as usual, and this is the meaning:—The light of God's Truth would come out and radiate to all prepared and receptive souls in the world,—from the East as it ever has! All the divine messengers or prophets have appeared in the East, and it is to be remembered that the material light,--the sun,—(to us) rises in the East, and likewise diffuses its gladsome warmth in its westward course.

Ninth, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of Heaven shall be shaken." This means that the people have become deadened to the sunlight of God's spiritual Truth, they having drifted away into the clouds of ignorance, superstition, mysticism and darkness.

Tenth, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in Heaven," etc.

Now let us consider the prophecy of Christ as to His second coming in the flesh:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man

in heaven : and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt. 24 : 29-31.)

Any one alive to the conditions and signs of the times during the past sixty years, knows that the days of the abomination that maketh desolate are practically ended, though the world is still having tribulations and will for a number of years. But the fact is, that Palestine, all of the Holy land, is being built up and beautified, and the Jews, the woefully punished, degraded and scattered people without a country, are already beginning to flock back to and upbuild the desolate land, and, what is far more, they are, in accepting the Great Bahai Revelation, accepting Christ and true Christianity—not the false church under that name !

The "sun" refers to the religion or Truth of God, and the "moon" the manifestation thereof in and the teachings of Jesus Christ, which have become dim and far away from the lives of men, as evidenced by the pagan like idolatry witnessed all around ; conditions that ever have prevailed toward the end of a religious dispensation. The "stars" falling from heaven, mean the clergy, the religious guides and teachers, practically all of

whom have become diverted from the "heaven" of God's Truth. They have long since abandoned the reality of the simple but sufficient teachings of Christ, occupying themselves mainly with the imaginations and inventions of man in practice all the centuries, dating from about the fourth, and in always permitting intellectual persuits and hair splitting, invidious distinctions and argument to separate them from God and His spiritual Truth, which always is simple and plain to those of pure hearts.

There never was such a time as now, when the "powers," the so called religious organizations, were so shaken and rudderless.

Having in mind these words herein before considered. and those immediately preceding, and carefully reading especially the three verses last quoted, we are able to interpret the wonderful words of prophecy in a substantially correct manner as follows :

Christ, the Manifestation of the Word in the station of the Sonship of God, was to appear on earth in human form, as before, but in the heaven, i. e., the spiritual Truth of God, and God Himself, His Manifestation of the Father Station, for none other could be "Power and Great Glory" for Christ to so designate. This spirit of Christ was to come at the right hand of Power and Great Glory (God) and was to show the world of mankind unto the Father, (God Himself the Lord of

the Vineyard—the Kingdom Christ taught us to pray for in the Lord's Prayer).

Sending His angels meant the true and faithful believers on the earth at this time of His second coming, and these were to spread His teachings of Divine Truth throughout the world, to bring together those of all nations and faiths, into one faith and belief; one Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God in oneness and singleness! And this is being done.

We have seen that "Trumpet" means the Voice or Truth of God (Rev. 1 : 10,) and this it is which is bringing the faithful, "My sheep," "the elect" together, as no former Revelation of God's Religion has done "since the foundation of the world." None save those would know the Shepherd's Voice (God's Truth at this time) when He came, would recognize it, Christ declared, and no others, of course, would respond.

It will be seen that all of this great prophecy of Christ is being fulfilled. His great parable of the tares applies to these times. Those who do not recognize and respond to the call of the divine Shepherd in these days, are most unfortunate, but naturally they do not know it, for they are the "goats" the unbelievers, or in the other words of Christ, the "tares" which are being separated from the "wheat," "sheep" or believers, and burned (more spiritually than literally).

The Apostle Paul declared (1 Thes. 4: 14-17)

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive (spiritualy) and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God : and the dead in Christ shall rise first : then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air : and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

This clearly means to the true believers, they will be with God and His Christ in the human bodies (clouds) in the Kingdom of God on earth, to meet the Lord in the atmosphere of His Love and Truth ! It is very simple. It is true.

Again Paul said, (1 Tim. 3 : 16). "God was manifest in the flesh" ; and in Hebrews 12 : 22-23 (Rotherham). What a glorious prophecy of this day of the Lord—"But ye have approached Zion's mountain, and unto a city of a living God, a heavenly Jerusalem, and unto myriads of messengers in high festival and unto an assembly of first born ones." (Believers in this time.)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH

CHAPTER II

OMING in the glory of His Father" fully refers to this Day. (Matt. 16 : 27.) Coming in His own glory and of His Father's, (Luke 9 : 26).

"No man can come to Me, except the Father Who hath sent Me draw him." (John 6 : 44.)

Christ fully foretells the coming of His Father (God) for He spoke of the Comforter to come as "*Him*"—not *it*, etc. etc, (John 16 : 7-16). "Sanctify them through Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth." (John 17 : 17.) "O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee" : etc. (John 17: 25.) ". . . that I should bear witness unto the Truth. Every one that is of the Truth heareth My voice." (John 18: 37.)

Christ said He desired to eat "this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 22: 15-16.) "For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the Kingdom of God shall come." (Luke 22: 18.)

In this greatest period (day of God or seventh world day or cycle) there are three manifestations, the Bab, the blessed perfection, Baha' Ullah (Glory be to Him) and Abdul Baha.

"We are all the servants of the threshold of Baha, and the one who serves the most in His Holy Threshold is the most beloved. My greatest wish and desire is submissiveness and servitude at His Holy Threshold. My name, Abdul Baha, means the servant of God ; my heart is the servant of Baha, and my spirit is the servant of Baha, and rejoices only in His name. My purpose is love, not only by word, but by action.

"The essence of all essences is love, which is likened unto the meat of the nut, while all else is likened unto the shell or outside. Through the providence of the Blessed Perfection our spirits must be full of the love of God. Therefore, anyone who asks you about me should be told that I am the servant of Baha, because this is my only wish. . . . . .

"It is stated in the New Testament that Jesus Christ was once drinking of the fruit of the vine (juice of grapes) and said He would drink no more except in the presence of the Father. This means that the spirit needs food for strength as well as the body. The appearance of the holy manifestations is for the purpose of causing the Heavenly Tables to desend. This Table means the divine virtues and characteristics, and is the means of strengthening the spirit and life. Therefore we hope that as this Heavenly Table has descended from the Kingdom of Abha in this marvelous period, the believers and friends of God will have a great portion of it, so that they will

be the cause of eternal life and the means of enlightening the hearts of the people of the world.

"In short, I hope you will ask God to bless you as being the *real* sons of the Kingdom, because the sons of the Kingdom are of two kinds. One is the real son and the other the material one. Judas Iscariot and Peter were both sons of the Kingdom. But Peter was the real son. Judas was the material son, consequently he was deprived. The real sons of the Kingdom are those souls who act according to the instruction and teachings of Baha' Ullah, (The Glory of God) the Blessed Perfection. They are drunken with the cup of Providence and are illuminated by the Divine Light. They are honored by all their perfections and virtues of humanity, and are characterized with the attributes which embellish the essence of man in such a manner that all people, even the enemies, testify of their good actions, attractions, separations from the world, purity, sanctity, knowledge and belief." (Abdul Baha Abbas to two young men from America in 1901.)

In every great age of the world, marked by successive revelations of religion for the instruction and guidance of mankind, there have been variations in names, teachings and general conditions. Each dispensation has had its particular name for the Creator, its differing mode of announcement, its special and ever increasing knowledge of God's Truth in keeping with the gradual, slow perhaps,

but constant and inexorable development and progress of the world of mankind.

The sacred books of all revelations agree in promising the coming of the "Day of God," and, (quoting from Mirza Abul Fazdl, the noted scholar and writer of philosophy and religion): "Foreshadow the arrival of the hour wherein the face of God will be manifested." . . . . "The essence of all that is recorded concerning these great teachings is this: that when oppression and tyranny prevail throughout the world; when distress and tribulations are intensified among the nations; when divergences of religions and creeds become grave and widespread, and the heaven of worship of the Merciful God is riven and overthrown; when the greed of souls grows fierce and violates man and property; when terrors and adversities prevail, at that time the divine Herald will arise, the holy, heavenly Spirit will descend, announcing the coming of the manifestation of the promised Lord, proclaiming the approach of the Dawn of the Orb of His Glorious Beauty! Then will the faith be made plain, hearts brought nigh unto God, breasts healed, griefs dispelled and tears wiped away. Then will the glorious Lord arise and utter a call which shall shake the pillars of this lofty edifice. He will cry out in a voice which shall fill the expanse of the world and summon all nations of the earth, both East and West, to God, the Mighty, the Glorious! Then will He

institute for them new laws, and trace out for them a new, a plain, a direct path! And after the setting of the sun of His beauty, the breeze of His presence being hushed, the glorious branch extended from the Tree of His essence will arise (Abdul Baha); the dawning morn will shine from the horizon of the heaven of His bounty, diffusing the light of His religion, establishing the temple of His worship, and sitting upon the throne of His glory! His holy word will penetrate all regions until the saying be fulfilled: 'The earth will be illuminated with the light of its Lord, in the day of judgment.'"

Several millions of people (but how few when compared with the population of the world) already know that in this very time is the fulfilment of the great promise of Christ in His remarkable parable of the lord and the vineyard, or the wicked husbandmen, as to the literal coming of the Lord of the Vineyard Himself! and that Baha' Ullah (the manifestation of God the most Glorious) was that fulfilment!

We are now actually living in the early dawn of the "Day of the Most Great Peace," the seventh cycle or world day, prophetic day, religious dispensation, the millennium, the day of the Father! It will require some time, naturally enough, before we shall be able to grasp the full significance, the greatness, the reality of this time! We should thank God that we were priviledged to be here

now, and pray that we fully apprehend and appreciate.

Ministers preach of Christ's sheep being the true believers in God and His Christ, but they do not seem to understand that the Christ is the Word or Spirit manifested in His messengers, not simply Jesus; and they woefully fail in learning that great lesson from Christ as to "my sheep knowing the shepherd's voice," for they do not respond to the very loudly calling voice of the Truth of God, now, in this very time of the second coming!

If we believe in Christ, we must believe His words, and believing His words, we must recognize His call, now, in the Kingdom not made with hands, but already established on earth! It is impossible to be a real Christian without being of the Truth and *knowing* of the Kingdom on earth.

The proofs of the Kingdom are found in Deut. 33 : 2; Isaiah 9 : 6-7; Daniel, chapters 7, 8, 9, 12; Hosea 2 : 15; Ezek. 37 : 21; Jer. 23 : 3; John 16 :7-16; John 16 : 25; the book of Revelation and in many other places fully enumerated hereinafter.

Read the following words of the Manifestation of God, Baha' Ullah, taken from His famous letter to the Shah of Persia, delivered by Badi the messenger, who was frightfully tortured and murdered for performing that service:

"O king, verily I was as any one amongst man-

kind, slumbering upon my couch. The gales of the *All Glorious* passed by me and taught me the knowledge of what hath been. This thing *is not from me*, but from One Who is mighty and all-knowing. This (Himself) is a leaf which the breezes of the will of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Extolled, have stirred."

"For that peerless King (the Infinite) is holy for everlasting, above ascent or descent."

It will be noticed that all of the prophets and messengers of God have appeared in the East—Abraham, Moses, Christ, Mohammed, The Bab, Baha' Ullah and Abdul Baha Abbas. The Sun rising in the East is the Symbol.

CHRIST'S RATIFICATION AND CONFIRMATION OF ALL PROPHETS

CHAPTER III

THE ratification and confirmation of the words of prophecy of Moses, David, Daniel and all of the prophets by Christ. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." (See 24 : 27.) "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me." (v. 44.) "It is written in the Prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath *learned* of the Father, cometh unto Me." (John 6 : 45.) "That the scripture might be fulfilled." (John 17: 12.) "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, etc." (Mark 13 : 14.) "Have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying: 'I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?'" (Mark 12 : 26.)

JONAH AND THE WHALE

CHAPTER IV

MIRACLES and mysteries are not always as formidable, senseless or purposeless as generally believed.

Making fairy tales of great Biblical stories and lessons is no longer satisfying, especially when such seem to violate law, fact and reason. It is no longer necessary, — indeed there is no excuse for fairy tales or mysticism. It is astonishingly easy to reduce many of the ancient fables to practical, common-sense fact. When rightly understood the Bible is no purveyor of jokes, foolishness, the impossible, or that which is in any way inconsistent with or controverts the truth of scientific fact. Let us take for our present consideration a grossly misinterpreted and misunderstood story — that of Jonah and the whale.

Doubtless there are some who may think it a pity to puncture this threadbare gas-bag myth — for such it has amounted to as hitherto interpreted and understood — but there comes a time when our little or big fancies and imaginations must be put aside ; a time when the child must receive the real truth, say, respecting Santa Claus, sad though the awakening may be. As with the growing and developing child individuality, so with the race

of mankind in general. Are we to go on in ignorant bliss forever with our eyes and ears closed to Truth? No indeed. The Truth is for us; we are made for it, and we must have it.

Instead of this Jonah account being a vulgar, impossible "miracle," it is in very fact a grand, a glorious spiritual lesson, and it is not limited to place or time, but was and is for universal application for all mankind and all time.

The world has been wrong all these years, centuries, ages: that is, mistaken in its literal rather than spiritual interpretation of the allegory, parable, symbol, sign and outward form expression of the Bible. It is manifest error to either contemplate the great spiritual teachings of the Bible as fantastic fairy tales, or to interpret them in mere literal, limited mechanical accuracy (?) of detail.

There are many proofs in the Bible that the greatest teachings were recorded in something other than mere words of any language. The twelfth chapter of Daniel is sufficient for the present. There the edict was issued to mankind that the real Truth was concealed for a certain time, the date of which is given in that same book of Daniel. Much later than the time of the prophet Daniel, Jesus Christ declared: "These things have I spoken unto you in *proverbs;* but the time cometh when I shall *no more speak unto you in proverbs"!* (John 16:25.) The Genesis

account of creation is wonderful symbolic *prophecy*, and the same is true of the most marvellous of all books, Revelation of Christ through St. John, which is almost wholly written in magnificent symbology. The reason is now plainly obvious: words of all languages are subject to change and perversion of original, inherent meaning, while certain symbols are not in any like sense subject to such change and loss of significance. For instance, "rod" and "staff" and "trumpet" were symbols employed to denote the voice of the Truth of God! (Isa. 11:4; Rev. 1:10; 4:1; 11:12, 15) and "serpent" has from time immemorial been employed as a symbol of wisdom, as is very well known.

Regarding this illustrious "Jonah and the whale" story, enough is known to make it absolutely certain that it is rendered in symbolism and there is already known that which sufficiently proves the wonderful spiritual character of the alleged "miracle." While it is not here claimed that full knowledge of the reality of significance therein portrayed is reduced to known fact, there is enough known to make good the present general contention. In the light of this understanding of the Truth, strange indeed seems the long accepted theory that the whale or any other fish actually did swallow the prophet Jonah, and more strange the confident belief that a man did live or could have lived in the belly of a whale or any

animal three days and come out alive! Really the converse of the story is not much more unreasonable; that is, that the man Jonah himself swallowed the whale! At all events more fish have been eaten by men, than men have been eaten by fish.

Before proceeding with the explanation of this Jonah story let us consider a few general questions preliminary to and necessary and important for a correct understanding of this and other Biblical stories.

The church world, if not familiar with the reality of truth contained therein, has certainly been right in regarding this Jonah story religiously, sacredly. Of a truth it contains and is the exponent of a great spiritual lesson — a divine teaching and warning to the world for all time. While the church cannot be blamed for its inability, heretofore, to interpret and promulgate the real truth of the story, it may not be so readily excused for failing to recognize this, that the following facts are clearly shown in the Bible itself:

1. That its greatest and most important lessons of Divine Instruction, from Genesis to Revelation, from Alpha to Omega, for the guidance of the world of mankind, are contained, concealed, veiled within symbol, allegory, parable, sign and form, the most important part of which was and is prophecy.

2. That such concealed, hidden meanings were

not to be disclosed, made plain and understood until a certain specified time, the date of which is positively and accurately given in the Bible.

3. That, according to Christ, on the culmination of that period of time, all the mysteries were to be cleared up, the full explanations made, the real Truth given by "the Spirit of Truth," namely, The Lord of the Vineyard, God Himself!

4. That "No man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth was (would be at that time) able to open the Book, neither to look thereon" (understand Rev. 5 : 3), that is to say, no human being would know how or be able to give the true explanations, but there would be One, namely, The Greatest of all Manifestations of God, who would explain the reality of Truth of the Book (Religion — Revealed word of God), not only our Bible, but the Bibles or Revelations and teachings of all the seven great religious systems of the world, as stated.

5. That the world was clearly notified in our Bible that we were not to try our own human interpretations, but must be governed in the meantime by such rules of action as are contained in "The Sermon on the Mount," so as to be ready for The Kingdom on earth Christ taught of and came to prepare the world for.

Notwithstanding all of these self-evident facts, mankind has disobediently presumed to interpret

and declare for itself, through the theologians, commentators and clergy, with the result that the world is full of conflicting ideas and theories and disagreeing and warring religious systems, sects, denominations and factions.

Therefore, the consequence of all these wilfully deliberate and disobedient actions of God's children, is seen and will be more clearly seen hereafter, in the unwarranted and false creed and dogma of various degrees and descriptions, and in the very erroneous and inadequate treatment of such great questions as atonement, trinity, resurrection, baptism, creation, Noah and the flood, Jonah and the whale, etc.

"The Church", as now constituted, not only of Christianity, but all religious systems, having disregarded heavenly commands and become deteriorated, must retrace its steps; must return from error to the very foundation teachings, for all original revelation is in perfect accord and agreement on essentials. There is no other way than to obey God and His Word.

Begging the reader's pardon for being so long in coming to the point of the Jonah and whale explanation, a digression seemingly necessary, and it is hoped, not uninteresting, let us now try to come to the subject in hand.

We read in the Book of Jonah that he, the prophet, was commanded by God to go to Nineveh and warn the people because of their wickedness,

sin and disobedience toward God; that Jonah, in stead of obeying, fled, taking ship at Jaffa for Tarshish; that a great storm arose and finally that those of the ship "took up Jonah and cast him forth into the sea, and the sea ceased from her raging. . . . Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights"; that in answer to Jonah's repentance and prayers, "The Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon dry land." Then Jonah went on his way to Nineveh to perform his mission as he had been commanded to do.

It has often been argued, with more or less demonstrated proof, the physical impossibility of a fish or whale swallowing a man, or of a man living three days inside of the fish.

A word regarding "miracles," concerning which ideas are generally hazy to say the least. Without denying the possibility of "miracles" it is in order to remark that anything beyond our comprehension is to us a "miracle." But this general proposition is quite safe; that God, Who is Perfection, has never violated, nor can He violate perfect law, over which He presides! Most assuredly there are laws and principles far above and beyond present human knowledge, but it is now clearly evident that in most accounts of Biblical miracle were contained spiritual and grand lessons of prophecy concerning things to come.

Here is one very simple explanation of the Jonah incident, and a more rational and better one, it must be admitted, than the old literal swallowing affair. In those old days wicked tyrannical rulers were often referred to as "beasts" and as "whales" (Dan. 7 : 17 ; Ezek. 32 ; 2) and it was a well known fact that a prison or jail was called the "belly" of that brutal king, governor or ruler. There are days of five different durations in the Bible. In this Jonah account it is obvious that the "day" in question is the "day for a year" (Num. 14 : 34 ; Ezek. 4 : 6.) Now then, how very simple. The cruel ruler ("whale") clapped the prophet Jonah into his prison ("belly") where he was allowed to languish three years ("Days"). Then, on being released, Jonah proceeded on his mission to Nineveh.

While the foregoing elucidation is, as must be allowed, a far more reasonable view of the matter than the long accepted literal swallowing idea, it is by no means the really true and complete deciphering of the significant *code* language. If, as we trust, we are able to grasp something of the reality of things spiritual, that is, Truth, in the highest sense, we will perceive in the following interpretation and explanation, that which is of a nature to satisfy both the rational intellect and the spiritual consciousness or aspiration, awake or slumbering in every soul, also the reason, judgment and common-sense.

In his book "Sacred Mysteries," Mirza Assad 'Ullah, of Nur, near Teheran, Persia, gives the following beautiful and rational "Explanation of the Mystery of Jonah":

"Let it be known that the story of Jonah in the Bible is one which has many spiritual meanings, and which cannot be interpreted literally. In it are contained symbols concerning the states of the traveler toward God in his journey from the world of nature to the divine world. A portion of the explanation of these symbols was mentioned in the instructions regarding the early chapters of Genesis. It is a method of all the manifestations, the prophets of God, to explain the spiritual facts by material parables, so that such may be a universal bounty. The people of Truth perceive the spiritual meanings thereof, while others are satisfied with the outward appearance of the relations. Every one partakes according to his capacity.

"By Jonah is meant the human spirit; by the three days are signified three different states or kingdoms, as those of the vegetable, animal and human. After spending three days (periods) in these different conditions, the spirit may reach the station of the "Kingdom" and be freed from the limitations of the lower kingdoms.

"In one of the blessed Tablets revealed by His Highness Abdul Baha to a believer in Persia, whose name was Jonah, and written in the year

1893, he gives, in eloquent words, the following explanation of the parable of Jonah:

'He is *El-Abha!* O thou fish of the fathomless ocean! As His Highness Jonah (upon him be peace!) became familiar with the interior of the 'great fish' of nature and its elements, and suffered from the darkness of the depths of the sea of the world, so he was separated from the world of the kingdom of existence where are the lights of the placeless, and became a dweller in the world of place. Therefore the real meaning of Jonah is his *reality* (the essence of man); the fish is the corporeal body, the human temple and his outward form; the sea is the contingent world and the natural dark qualities. As he was cast into this narrow and dark condition, he cried out from the bottom of his heart: 'O Thou Holy Being! Verily I repent unto Thee!' (This caused him to be saved).

'Thus, thou also, as thou art cast into the depths of the sea, supplicate and beseech to God, so that thou mayest draw nigh unto the shore of safety and enter the shade of the Blessed Tree, which is the comfort of the heart and the rest of the soul.'"

In plain terms. Man, the individual, when born into this world, is totally unconscious, or tantamount to that. From that state he has to grow, be taught, developed and unfolded, onward and upward progressively through successive degrees

and stages, from that infant unconsciousness, blank ignorance, to a complete manifestation in (1) the Physical; (2) the Mental; (3) the Moral or Ethical, and (4) the highest, the Spiritual.

Now in applying this idea, the truth, to the human family concrete, in its progressive growth and development, and in accordance with the foregoing quoted words, let it be known that "Jonah" (meaning the spirit or essence of man—his real life) has to work up through, (1) the mineral and vegetable condition; (2) the animal; and (3) the human, before the real man, the spiritual and true man is born and become a fact!

The more we study and ponder over this Jonah lesson, the more we will become conscious of the richness, the grandeur of the message it brings to us.

The lesson of lessons is this: seek to become like a little child—in meekness, purity, simplicity, honesty, love, faith, unselfishness; in other words, become characterized with the characteristics of Jesus Christ, as the way, the only way to be participants in the Love, Truth and Knowledge of God! It is a royal road, the only royal road. It is simple, but difficult. But it brings its own rewards far surpassing any other thing.

A SUPERFICIAL BIBLE STUDENT

CHAPTER V

A LEADING New York daily recently published a communication, signed "Bible Student," rigorously criticising and denouncing the Presbyterian Church, which, it was alleged, is at variance with the plain teachings of the Bible. We will, as an object lesson, and after making all due apologies, undertake to criticise the critic, who shows himself as peculiarly shallow and mistaken in Bible interpretation as is the church he so rather venomously assails.

That critic says: "A church which does not teach all things whatsoever Christ taught is not Christ's church; those who belong to it do not belong to Christ, and unless they believe all things He taught and are baptized—i. e. initiated into His Church—they will be as heathens and publicans to Christ and will be condemned by Christ." This critic is all wrong, but if right his words are fully as applicable to himself as to the particular branch of the church he is so strenuously denouncing. He, as well as that church, indeed all churches, it is clearly apparent, ignores one of the most important and plainest of Biblical mandates, ratified and confirmed by Christ, declaring that no human being was or would be able to interpret

and explain the real Truth and Perfect Harmony of the Bible! One who does not know this, also that Christ clearly and positively described who would reveal such explanations, and the exact time when, and manner thereof, is, it may be assumed, scarcely worthy to be regarded as a profound "Bible student," and most assuredly not competent to propound such positive dictums as characterize his communication. His points are taken in order and briefly considered as follows:

1. He claims to be a "Bible Student" of a "trained and educated mind," but this claim is refuted by the foregoing and by that which follows.

2. He declares "Christ was God." A great error. For such a statement the Bible furnishes no warrant whatever. On the contrary Christ declares, in rebuking a certain ruler who merely called Him "Good Master," "Why callest thou Me good? none is good, save One, that is God!" Furthermore Christ in all His sublime teachings invariably conveyed the true idea that He but represented and did the Works of Him, the Great and *One God*, Who sent Him, Jesus Christ! In all of His matchless and parabolic and prophetic utterances this was clearly manifest and He said: "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret."

A fair and adequate deduction from the life, works and utterances of Jesus Christ makes it

certain that the "Christ" in the man "Jesus" of Nazareth, was the manifestation, the reflection of the sonship spirit of and from the Father as a manifestation, ambassador, servant, prophet of God, as a divine educator for the one and entire race of mankind, that is, "the Word (will and love of God) made flesh." (See first ch. of John.) In many places in the Bible it is positively declared through inspired prophets that God Himself is the only Saviour! In Deut. 18:18 it is prophesied by Moses, the greatest scholars hold, that God would raise up another prophet like unto Moses. This was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Not only must "Bible Student" and the church learn to distinguish between the one great God and His prophets and messengers, but they must also learn to differentiate between "Jesus" and "Christ." And what church does this?

3. He says: "Christ founded the church." Very true, but not as generally understood. None of the existing "churches" or branches thereof come anywhere near representing what He founded. In declaring that He would build His Church upon Peter the rock, Christ really meant nothing other or less than the faith and spirituality stood for by Peter, who alone originally apprehended and declared the Christ of God! The church was not in any sense intended to be founded or based upon man-made doctrine, imaginings or invention, but upon the Sermon on the Mount, which

embraces the immortal lessons to His disciples and to the world for all time concerning servitude, humility, true ministers, sacrifice, unselfisness and becoming as a little child as the only way to be of the Kingdom.

4. The critic continues: "Christ preached and taught a set form of creed and commissioned His church to teach that same to all peoples." Very good, but that "creed" was the principles just referred to, and *not*, a thousand times *not* the false inventions of a wicked priest-craft, set forth in their senseless and blasphemous and false doctrines of belief and church law in "vicarious atonement," "trinity," "immaculate conception (of the mere human or physical body)," "indulgence selling," salvation by simply joining the material church, the forgiveness of sin by man in place of God, etc., etc.

5. "Christ obliges every man to believe all these things," he says. Yes, exactly, the things He taught, as stated, but not the nonsense of a spiritless church, Christian in name only! The so-called church of Christ has wholly lost the spirit of the Christ teachings. It does not even know, or at least, manifest the true idea, the grand principle of baptism. While fighting among themselves over foolish contentions on the material "water" symbol and the mere detail of immersion or sprinkling, the magnificent fact of the three baptisms, water, spirit, and fire, plainly

exemplified by Christ in the gospels, are entirely lost. Yet how simple; first: the baptism of water, signifying teachings of God's Truth; second: the baptism of spirit, meaning that having heard those teachings, now believing, accepting and having Faith *with a determination to do works*, then one has the baptism of the spirit; third: the baptism of fire — the fiery trial and test with every pilgrim in the path of God wherein he is beset with temptation and must continually meet and overcome obstacles — overcome self and the world — in order to attain unto God and His Truth, the destined purpose of man, and as illustrated in Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and in Wagner's Parsifal, yea, far better, in the life and example of Jesus Christ. We repeat, Christ did not establish a false church, He founded the Truth, as did Abraham and Moses previously, for the Truth of God is one and the same yesterday, today and forever! But man has repeatedly and continuously erred and fell from grace.

6. He speaks of "faith" as "the one all important condition of belonging to the church of Christ and of salvation." Faith is important, but it is equally true as to "works." Faith without works is nothing. (Jas. 2: 17.) True belief, true faith is in reality the actual living of the life, in emulation of that of Christ—and nothing short of that. How wicked of the church to deceive and mislead the people.

7. This quondam critic says: "The intellect is the noblest part of man"! He is all wrong again, and continually wrong. It is self-evident that man embraces four kingdoms or stations in serial and orderly growth and development, as elsewhere in this book discussed, and it is clearly seen that the mental or intellectual is next to the lowest in the scale, and that man is not in reality created until he becomes spiritually unfolded or born as Christ declared. God is Spirit, the Bible declares, and that man is made—to be made—in the image and likeness of God, hence man is not created until he becomes spiritual and like unto God.

The critic concludes by saying: "A church that does not teach all things whatsoever Christ taught is not Christ's church: those who belong to it do not belong to Christ, and unless they believe all things He taught and are baptized—i. e., initiated into His church they will be as heathens and publicans to Christ and will be condemned by Christ"! This is repeated by way of emphasis. What a sad state of conditions, and the spiritually dead and wicked church is wholly responsible! It is repetition of history. The Jews were the same in their treatment of Christ and the Truth nineteen centuries ago.

The fault is practically the same with the Hindus, Zorastrians, Mohammedans and all religious systems. Human nature, human frailties are

about the same the world over. The time has arrived, however, for the refreshing of God's eternal Truth and the restoration thereof in the hearts of people, all the people of the whole world, presaging a speedy, rapid and continuous uniting and amalgamating of all mankind into *one vast Brotherhood under the Fatherhood of God in Oneness and Singleness!*

In conclusion then, there is no such thing as true faith or belief unaccompanied with the new birth; becoming as a little child, possessing its pure characteristics, as plainly indicated by Christ. He was never the author or founder of the Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Roman or Greek or other modern "church," that is to say, club! He was a Spirit and He founded the Spirit of Truth for *the hearts of mankind!*

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE*

HON. ANDREW D. WHITE REVIEWED AND CORRECTED

PART IV CHAPTER I

IN a recent address to the students of Cornell University by its former President, Andrew D. White, some good and true sayings were voiced—and some which, it seems, require more or less critical consideration.

If the published reports are correct, the learned educator described the downfall of most of the

* This and the following chapters, indeed the purpose of the book, is to emphasize the idea that true Biblical and religious interpretation contemplates going back of the outward form of the letter, symbol, allegory, parable and revelation, and deriving the true inner significance, the true spiritual meaning. Furthermore the aim is to show that the work for the true, real solution of the problems here treated, in fact all great problems, must necessarily be of that character which shall be directed, successfully directed, to the very root or basic foundation of the question. The subjects treated here, though at first thought seeming apparently of a diverse nature, yet it is believed the reader will find that in all there is running and underlying an inner basic center of cohesive harmony which is in reality quite universal. If the same or similar ideas, forms, or illustrations are directed towards the solution of different problems or questions over which hitherto variance of opinion and controversy have existed from time immemorial, it is because, first, it is believed they are worthy and important in the way of emphasis, and second, because in reality as there is but ONE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE, so also there is but one real and true remedy for the ills of mankind!

world's republics and then raised the question "why the United States should not meet the same fate." He said: "You will say we believe in the people: the voice of the people is the Voice of God. Let us look at some of the simplest utterances of the voice of the people in history. Nero was popular in Rome. Philip II., that monster, was no less popular in Spain. Louis XV., the worst king thinkable, was called the 'Well-beloved.' Andrew Jackson, the most dangerous chief magistrate we have ever had—a man who debauched the civil service, almost an autocrat—was one of the most popular presidents we have ever had. The voice of the people massacred the people in the Middle Ages; greeted the murder of Christians and the Inquisition with applause. The voice of the people crucified Jesus. But you will say, 'They were illiterate, badly educated.' And there you are right. All other reasons are platitudes, wholesaled by flatterers, retailed by phrasemongers, scattered by demagogues. There is but one thing—the development of better education of the people—to lift them above buffoonery, party cries and the wiles of chicanery that will insure a fair discussion in public affairs and a realization of republican ideals."

I believe ex-President White is wrong in his strictures upon the people. I find in history nothing to warrant any conclusion opposed to the proposition that in every age the people by a large

majority, in the heart, at the very basis, have been better and more to be trusted than have been the so-called leaders or educated classes in matters of greatest moment and best calculated for the good of the whole.

On the other hand it is far from right to contemplate the "voice of the people" as the "voice of God".

There is required something far more than education in the worldly or ordinary sense, that is, something other than mechanical learning of and from men. The want of that something, hereinafter described, has always been, far more than anything else, that which is responsible for the periodic declines, disruptions and extinctions of cities, nations and peoples.

But let us look at the before mentioned statements of President White, and remember that although his averments may seem at first glance correct enough, yet, if we sufficiently consider the matter, it will be found that what he calls "the voice of the people," has not in reality been such. Furthermore, it will be found that what he calls the real cause of the "voice of the people," as he terms it, in the instances quoted from his averments, was not in fact the uneducated condition of the people, but was the debauchery and wickedness of the high and mighty people, falsely and over educated, in governmental control, so to speak—educated in egoism and conceit!

Hereinafter the undertaking will be to clearly show just what is lacking with education to make "the voice of the people" the "voice of God!"

Exception is taken to the statement that Nero was in reality popular with a majority of the Romans. Rather, he was a tyrannical monster surrounded, aided, abetted and supported by a powerful host of his immitators or co-licentious degenerates, and to such a degree that the common people had no show at all. For instance, something of this is illustrated in Russia, where the people have not been greatly to blame, even though grossly illiterate, but where they have been brutally kept down, as a thousand unarmed men may be cowed, for a time, by a dozen educated, adroit, active and well armed villians, by an autocratic, unjust government viciously dominated by a *highly educated* but wickedly intolerant and oppressive Greek Church priest-craft.

As to Philip II and Louis XV having had the acclaim of the "voice of the people," there was really no truth in it, in my belief. Indeed, the conditions were similar to those existing in Rome and Russia, and these were responsible for the outward show of loyalty and support of a people ever held under the lash.

While Andrew Jackson had his "Kitchen Cabinet" and may have displayed to some extent a dogmatic, unyielding temperament, yet there was good reason for his popularity among the people, be-

cause obviously he was an honest, God-fearing or worshipping man — qualities widely lacking in these days, especially among the highly educated and very wealthy classes. I share Abraham Lincoln's faith in the integrity of the great bulk of the American people ; they were able to appreciate the sterling honesty of Jackson. Always the majority of the common people are the most honest and more to be trusted, in the long run, than are the more highly educated in political manipulation and control, who are, I believe, usually responsible for the wrong doing of the masses whom they, the aristocrats, have generally misled.

Other statements of the learned ex-President are, it is believed, wide of the mark. If we have read history aright, it was not the "voice of the people" in majority that "massacred the people in the middle ages" or "greeted the murders of Christians and the Inquisition with applause;" instead, it was the highly educated, the ruling classes, the brutal, wicked clergy, vested with practically invincible power (temporarily) of church and state ! It is equally a mistake to say that the people crucified Jesus Christ. It was a demon-like priestcraft, rather than the "voice of the people," or the government, which was really and directly responsible for that crime of crimes.

Therefore, considering fairly all of the examples presented by the honorable ex-president of Cornell, it will be observed that it was not so

much the lack of, but the possession of intellectual development that caused or permitted the great historic wrongs or inconsistencies referred to.

Of a truth there is something needed other and more than so-called education; that is to say, something more than merely imbibing from the accumulation of ideas, imaginations, inventions and traditions of fellow-beings, ninety-nine errors to get one truth.

There have been in the past many ancient cities highly cultivated in the arts and sciences and standing for a high civilization, intellectually speaking, still, shortly after attaining to the apex of worldly glory, there was invariably a rapid decline, and often obliteration. Why? Because the people, particularly the "educated" people invariably drifted away from God and into the service of mammon.

And besides, we need not boast very much of present intellectual achievements. In former ages prior to our history, there is evidence that the people possessed wireless telephones and many other scientific improvements equal to, if not surpassing, present accomplishments! In the whirligig of time there have been many ups and downs of political or racial organizations or nationalities, successively; the fall, sometimes the complete extinction, following, invariably, the time when the people in general have fallen away from

God's Truth into the idolatrous worship of materiality, as evidenced by the present abnormal devotion to the pursuit of riches in gold and intellectual delights. We are lost indeed if we are either too weak to learn from the past, or from the higher dictates of conscience.

Periodically the world has known the rise and fall of its humanity as marked off by great prophetic days or religious dispensations. The old doctrine of the "Fall of Man" is an absolutely false one. Here is the reason why. Towards the close of the Abrahamic Day the people of Israel had so fallen away from the true teachings, the spiritual Truth of God; had so declined and become so dead spiritually, that they found themselves in Egyptian bondage. Finally the merciful Lord raised up their deliverer in the person of the great prophet or law giver (instrument of God as an educator in the truest sense) Moses, who finally, after years of trials and struggles, led the captives, remnants of a former race of grandeur, from the clutches of Pharaoh unto the land of Canaan-Palestine. In due lapse of time, in spite of most clear and emphatic divine warnings through Moses, as the Mosaic day or dispensation drew to its close, and the still greater day or cycle of Jesus Christ exhibited its bright dawning Light of God's Truth, the inexorable fact of history repeating itself was again apparent. We find in history how the Jews were looking for the

Messiah, but as the coming of Christ was in the person or human body of the lowly Jesus of Nazareth and not in accordance with their material and superficial conceptions and imaginations of the coming, as they ignorantly supposed it must be, in great earthly pomp and glory, they would have nothing of the divine sonship manifestation of God, but denied, rejected and cruelly persecuted and crucified Him. The Jews had become so dead spiritually they utterly failed to apprehend the Christ whom Moses, the prophet they professed allegiance to, had so plainly and fully foretold! Nor could those misguided people understand Christ when He declared shortly before being led to crucifixion: "I have overcome the world."

Nothwithstanding the execrable action of man, so often exhibited in the march of the great ages, the eternal WORD of God through His Christ was established "never to pass away"! It was simply a renewal, but in greater force than ever before, of the restoring, refreshing breath of God's Truth, without which we could not exist, but for which we are ever so ungrateful and undeserving. What vicissitudes, what convulsions, what deplorable actions, yea crimes, have ceaselessly accompanied, indeed, been a part of the great rise and spread of Christianity!

Another great epoch-marking change has become evident; another remarkable dispensation is

already inaugurated — the greatest and the grandest, the most spiritual and perfect the world has witnessed! How many are wide-awake enough to apprehend and respond? Does the new visitation find much more in the people of earth than the oft repeated high development and activities in mental, and perhaps moral qualities? Shall we be able to, will we avoid the fatal mistakes of the Jews?

History tells us there have been seven great religious systems of the world. In this connection the thoughtful and spiritually inclined will find much food for thought and aspiration in the twelfth chapter of Daniel and the forth and fifth chapters of Revelation. The "book" means the religion of God —and there never was and never will be other than *one religion of God!* In every one of those seven great systems or revelations, Sabeanism or Fettishism (now represented by many fragments of religious systems), Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism, we will find nothing but beautiful harmony, if we go back to the original foundation teachings of each. But in contrasting such with modern degenerate church administeration in each case, there is at once apparent a wide gulf of departure and disparity, painfully noticeable in Christianity, perhaps the worst of all in this regard. Let the clergy question this if they will. In this sad state of affairs is found another illustra-

tion, a most potent one, of the periodical fall of mankind. The Jews deny Christ and Mohammed, and the Christians deny Mohammed and virtually all of the other great manifestations of God. Think of it, the woeful disobedience and sinfulness of God's creatures presuming to elect as to whom of the divine messengers they would recognize and accept! By what right have we of the Occident pretended to boast of our superiority over others of God's creatures? Are not all creatures equally the children of the One God--One Creator—even the slaves of darkest Africa as much as those whose lot has been cast in more delightful surroundings? Has any human being had the right to deny any prophet or messenger of God? While such has been done time and time again, it has been because of the innate evil-mindedness and absence of spirituality on the part of the highly educated, more than on the part of the common people, whom the former have deceived and misled—"blind leaders of the blind"!

One of the curses of man, in causing his spiritual blindness, is over devotion to empty form and ceremony. It is a fact and always has been that as man develops his propensity for delving amongst and individual construction of complicated details of mere outward form, show, pomp and material glory, whether or not associated with ritual, creed or dogma, then, in proportion to his activity in that direction, does he in an inverse ratio suffer

in loss of spirituality and consequent and pitiable decline. That is what one gets from devotion to external rather than internal or spiritual matters. The former is "education" of man; the latter is *real knowledge!* Verily there is a vast deal of difference between "education" and *real knowledge!*

Assume, and it is a fact, that this earth is a vast school-house; that God is the Principal; that all the people of the world are scholars, and that the prophets and messengers are the teachers or educators, sent by the divine Principal and His dispensers of real knowledge for the pre-ordained instruction of His creatures—His scholars in *the grand school of life*. Thus the divine plan for the education of mankind is apparent. Jesus Christ in His matchless parabolic teachings, called the earth the vineyard, and God the Lord of the vineyard. In the parable of "the wicked husbandmen" He clearly called the clergy of all times those wicked husbandmen! It seems strange at first, but it is true that the clergy are the last in the time of or immediately following every new Revelation to respond to and accept it.

This is the fact of transcendental importance. It must be admitted that all Knowledge is of and from God; that not a single idea or item of truth has appeared save from God—at some time! The Truth—God-Knowledge—has ever been showered upon the world through the numerous great Revelations, also through individuals generally, in-

deed through all created life, all nature! The thing is to become receptive of and to form contact with God-Knowledge.

Creation and inspiration is just as much of fact today as of any former time!

Whatever our individual beliefs are, it will be difficult to find a rational person who is of sufficient temerity to question the proposition that the Great First Cause possesses every quality *observable*, at least, anywhere, and it is Eternal God and SPIRIT! It is logical to hold that the creation of man in the Image and Likeness of God, means likeness in *substance* or quality—*not* in mere outline or form.

Now then, this is reasonable. Man has the following kingdoms or stations: first and lowest, physical; second and next upward, the mental; third, the moral; and fourth, the *spiritual*—the highest. It is clearly obvious that only the development and unfoldment of this last and highest, the spiritual station of man, can possibly, in any degree well and truly apprehend and know God and His Spiritual Truth! That being the case, it is perfectly apparent that real and true education consists in developing in us that essence of true spirituality, innately within every human soul from the beginning. Therefore we should look to it that all we try to do, and all we seek to learn, shall tend in the right direction, that is, to hasten forward the true opened up power of spiritual apprehension!

The great trouble is this, we have been "playing hooky" too much, with the result that we have paid too much attention to the vain imagination and speculation in the halls of learning, and too little heed to the revealed Word through the great dispensation marking prophets of God. It is indeed come to this, and it is a most shameful thing, that people generally, even church people, are ashamed to acknowledge God, the true Father!

The world-school idea is merely a picture of one view of the Christ teachings, for His whole life's work not only predicated *the coming of the day of God on earth*, but taught mankind how to become conscious of the true Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man and of the innate power in every human being, the development of which brings the realization of what was primarily designed and provided.—*inter-communication with God!*

The microcosm, the little world or universe of man, is truly a picture in miniature and sign and form of the great macrocosm of the vast universe of worlds! Christ declared: "In my Father's house are many mansions"! He surely meant that the Father's house was the vast universe, and that the many mansions were the infinite number of *inhabited planets!* Is it not obvious that this world, perhaps the smallest of the inhabited planets, is merely the primary school-starting place of man, who is designed to progress onward and upward

through myriads of successively graduated and progressive worlds? Christ declared we were to become *one with the Father*—if we were obedient! Is not our course for the high attainment—*true education — true knowledge — God-knowledge*—a straight and clear proposition?

The fact is and ever has been that men are prone to run to the extreme. Intellectual development, in even the ordinary sense, is by no means to be discredited; rather, it is to be desired, but the thing is to have the right sort, and always have in mind *true education of, from and unto God* in the very highest sense. A good physique is very much to be desired, but it is not everything. It is a too common error among physical culturists to carry training for physical development to an absurd extreme, wholly out of proportion to the beneficial results derived. Practically the same may be said with reference to many educational cranks. There is a tremendous advocacy of education, by which is meant simply intellectual training and development, as being the panacea for every ill, so to speak. But the matter is carried to an unwise extreme, for, as already remarked, the intellectual station of man as well as the physical, has its limitations. As Rev. Dr. Hillis has said: "We are all run mad with intellectuality." There is much education which fails to educate, and when so-called education swells us to the veritable bursting point with vain ego, it is high

time to strive to see where we are drifting to.

It is quite common for our educators and the most conspicuous advocates of education, so-called, (that is to say, the cramming full of others' ideas and guesses) to show a deplorable wanting in reasonable knowledge of that which makes for real development in the higher sense. We all have got to know, or fail in the object of this life here, that the sole object of being here in this *preparatory school* is to work our passage and fit ourselves for the great unending hereafter. Mere intellectual training is to be considered practically on a par in importance with the trade of a carpenter, for like the houses we live in and the clothes we wear, all of the accomplishments relating to our means of subsistence, comfort and enjoyment are but tools to work with in accomplishing our real and great destined purpose.

What then is the great thing to learn? Jesus Christ told us when He said: Become like this little child. While the great requisite is unobtainable by the senses and the mind it is in reality very simple. We must make ourselves receptive to *the constructive and sustaining power of and from God!* God is not only the Source of all, but is the *continuing Sustenance of all!* In spite of our vileness in sin and disobedience of the commands of our heavenly Father, His love, spirit and truth constantly upholds us. Now it is easy to see that the pure spiritual Truth of God cannot

be expected to find sufficient lodgment in any but a person possessing a strictly honest and pure heart and soul, to at least a degree to be appreciable. As the electric motor on the car has no power in and of itself, but partakes of the power from the power house *when harmony of connection exists*, so man appropriates, feels, utilizes *the incomparable power of God when he puts himself in harmony with God by being like unto a little child in humility, faith, love, unselfishness, honesty, truth!*

This is the exact undeniable truth. The most ignorant people have been the most learned—that is, in the possession of the highest degree of *knowledge*. Dotted all over the past there are seen traces of simple, yet great souls, who were never "educated," still were the most highly learned in the truest sense in the world. Jesus of Nazareth was one, Mohammed was another, and there have been many others, indeed hordes of those through whom has been manifested powers of inspiration, invention, art delineation, music, bravery, courage, servitude, sacrifice and all the power of necessary equipment to work for the emancipation of self and others. Who among the countless thousands of very wealthy and very learned of the world in all times have so fixed and beautiful a position in history as the humble, illiterate fishermen, who in the time of Christ, were pure, honest and true enough to see spiritually and behold and acknowl-

edge the great God manifestation at that time? Who can point to a very "learned" person that at the same time did likewise! The high priest Caiaphas, typical of the "learned," haughty cleric and scholar of the period, had just the same opportunity the humble illiterate fisherman, Peter, had to know the reality of the Christ manifestation, but the arrogance, the result of the pride of intellect, consciously or unconsciously supplanting or dominating the higher and truer life, unfitted Caiaphas and prevented his spiritual development to a degree sufficient to enable his apprehending the Lord Christ! Is not this circumstance an offering of food for earnest thought and reflection?

The general run of educators to the contrary notwithstanding, the true observer of the past and the present surely finds that there has always been a more apt and effective perception and adoption of reality of knowledge, which makes for enduring progress, among the ranks of the people, yes, the illiterate, if you please, to a far greater extent than among the professional educators!

Just as true as it is true that the scientific world will eventually recognize the fact that what it has ever denominated as incorporeal, the intangible (the spirit, or those things beyond the perception of the mere senses or the mind), is really the unchangeable and ponderable, while all phenomena of matter are continually subjected to and undergoing change and reversion, so will educators be

forced to accede to the proposition that true education in the highest and fullest sense relates not to mere physical or intellectual study and accomplishment, but to that which makes for the highest or spiritual station or kingdom of man.

The really great thing to do is to build that which goes with us beyond the grave. By conforming to the following Divine Dictum quoted from the Sermon on the Mount, we will have true education, that is to say, we will make ourselves receptive to the reality of knowledge, per se; verily, God Knowledge! This is the way, the only way to avert the stupendous disaster, and it is indeed impending, involved in Dr. White's query "Why the United States should not meet the same fate"—of the fallen nations of the past?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for their's is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth."

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled."

"Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy."

"Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God."

"Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God."

"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you," etc.

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect."

The solution, the whole, the only solution of the entire problem, indeed all problems, lies in the following:

"Seek ye first *the kingdom of God* and His righteousness; and all these (other) things shall be added unto you."

It is therefore submitted to the people of pure, honest, fair minds and hearts, that, after due and careful consideration, all the rest besides "education" are not mere "platitudes, wholesaled by flatterers, retailed by phrase-mongers, scattered abroad by demagogues," as Dr. White is alleged to have declared.

That noted educator is reminded of the irrefutable fact that "education," like about everything else, has drifted away, and most woefully, from the reality of Source, Attainment, and Purpose!

The present discussion, it is believed, has brought out this profound distinction: the great difference between *knowledge, per se*, the reality of Knowledge, that is *God-Knowledge*, and mere "education" so-called, the ideas and imaginations of man — that sort of education which does not truly educate. This is clearly observable in all walks of life, particularly in the professions, and notably in the clerical profession.

It is high time so-called "educators" learned to differentiate between the kind of "education"

which does not profitably educate, and the other kind of education which leads to and is based upon *absolute knowledge;* which shows how to attain unto that absolute and perfect KNOWLEDGE!

In a word we trust it is made clear that education unaccompanied with purity of mind, heart and intent, and sincerity, honesty, unselfishness and Spirit, is practically synonymous with degradation!

As music is dead without harmony, so education is dead without *the spirit of God's Truth!*

THE RACE PROBLEM

SOLVED BY STRIKING AT THE ROOT

CHAPTER II

NOT long ago a New York morning paper published a "symposium" on the race question, the object being to show "How Education will solve the so-called Negro Problem."

The articles numbering five, six and seven in the series have been particularly called to my attention. These were written by the Governor of a great State; a President of a great University; and by a former Congressman, President of another great University, respectively.

We shall see whether these gentlemen are mistaken in the views they present.

It is well to bear in mind the fact that name and place do not always indicate true greatness or the work of genius. Often greatness is wrongfully assumed, as in the case of the execrable wretch known in history as Nero, who mountebanked the claim of being "The Saviour of the World."

History, and it is not always right, also says of King Henry VIII: "A more vain-glorious and self-willed cox-comb never wore a crown;" that he was forever trying to "display Henry the King,"

and that in him there was a "total absence of real greatness of character."

Of a truth, in many instances and in, probably, all ages, greatness has been thrust upon man. Likewise it is true that often very small men are found in great places, but this is not said of the above named gentlemen, rather, it is said of men in general; men who pose as public Educators, while lacking in familiarity with foundation principles involved in the premises.

For every discovered hero there are ten thousand undiscovered. It is in accordance with a high law that truly great men are invariably simple and unassuming among their fellow-men. There are such among the professional educators of the world but the point is, and it is an alarming fact, the world is full of prominent writers, educators and so-called "great men" who manifest a woefull inability to grasp the underlying principles—the real cause; the far reaching purpose; the higher significance in the many propositions demanding solution. The matter may be ignored; ears may become suddenly deaf, but the irrefutable fact remains that the out-put from the "profound" thinking mills is seriously lacking in the ability to reach below the mere exterior or covering of most vital questions. How can solutions of great problems be expected to come from such sources?

If education, that is to say, worldly intellectual training, is only able to produce men sitting in

high places in theological, educational, political and physical circles, who are capable of contemplating mere surface facts and not the inner and underlying principles and causes at the root or basis; it must be admitted that intellectual development as such, considering the present degree of material attainment in the world, has reached its limit of growth and unfoldment; also that there is something higher and wore important than mere intellectuality!

The Governor states that the Caucasion race is "The highest type of the human family." In so declaring it is obvious that there was held in view only the "material" accomplishments of the world. Along this line it is clear that the people of the United States of America lead the world in agriculture, manufacturing, invention, liberty and freedom, and general productiveness, progress and development. But what was our development, our civilization only a few centuries ago? Has not our present condition followed the fullest degree of racial mixture? What if we can claim we are intellectual leaders, high in the arts and sciences, when we ignore that which is incomparably higher? Other nations in the past have risen to our intellectual heights, and perhaps beyond our station, only to be dashed in pieces because lacking something higher than mere intellectual training and development. Many great nations have attained to a lofty station through qualification in

the arts and sciences, and in worldly educational and commercial lines, then—fell. Let us remember that the mental or intellectual station is but one step above the physical.

The writer knows a young negro, a son of American slavery, who is, it is believed, more advanced and highly developed, in the truest sense, than many of the greatest and most popular clerymen in a certain metropolitan center—more particularly those of spectacular prominence before the world. This colored youth was a humble servant of a prominent, wealthy, and noble American woman. He is great in the true sense, notwithstanding he occupied a menial position. In reality the true love and faith represented by this humble brother made him an example eminently worthy of emulation by many proud and prominent educators.

Fictitious greatness ever has been a very common thing in the world. The Cyclopedia of Biography, page 311, refers to Alfonso d'Albuquerque as one who was fictitiously great. It says: "Three hundred and fifty years ago (this name) was as familiar and famous as the names of Napoleon, Wellington and Washington now are. He was generally spoken of as the great Albuquerque. He was certainly one of the most successful of conquerors and excelled all the commanders of his time, except Pizarro and Cortes, in battering down other people's towns and carrying off their

gold, silver and diamonds. At this day all Christians appear to have been fully convinced that the heathen had no rights which Christians were bound to respect."

Contrast the foregoing with the life of Cosmo de'Medici who flourished in Italy in the 14th century and was noted for his "greatness of goodness." He lived a modest, humble, private citizen, employing his time and riches for the amelioration of his country and fellowmen. One, the former, assumed greatness; Cosmo de'Medici lived it.

We would do well to think and ponder sometimes before arrogating too much to our Caucasion race. World history often has shown that the very highest attainment has been accomplished by those of meagre intellectual proficiency. But that is no reason for, nor do we argue against "learning" of the right sort, however, for the real accomplishment of life, great so-called learning has been, and can be dispensed with. There are two things very apt to defeat the real object of being on earth; proud learning and great riches. Of what good are either unless they lead us up to, rather than away from, the real attainment—the accomplishment of the destined purpose of life?

In another article in the same symposium series a university president, before mentioned, says: "Every consideration of this problem (of the races) should start with a full recognition of the fact that the negro is a child race, at least two

thousand years behind the white race in its evolution. All mistakes in the past treatment of the negro have resulted from our failure to recognize this fundamental fact." And after speaking of education and training in freedom and right environment as being calculated to "advance a race very rapidly," he says: "But they have not made him the equal of his white brother, and no amount of liberty is going to do this without the aid of time and nature's slow working forces." This distinguished gentleman pleads "for justice and common sense in the education of the negro for American citizenship," and he does well in speaking of "the noble, self-sacrificing way in which the Southern people have given of their very limited resources for the education of their recent slaves."

These writers and indeed all of those already noted, who dilate so learnedly upon this and allied subjects, declare for "education" as the true and only solvent of the great problems confronting mankind. Granting they are right, at least in a certain sense, it is pertinent to inquire as to what sort of "education" is meant? What is education anyway? Let us answer that question, first, however, taking a good square look at the real situation.

If we are endowed with practical common sense and the power to exercise normal reason and rational judgment, we are bound to admit that there is too much false or useless and misdirected or

misapplied education—"education" which does not educate; which does not truly inspire and uplift us beyond this mere temporary world; the contingent requirements, environments, perishable and incidental attainments, all of which are left behind when the soul or spirit, the real life, marches irresistably onward and upward through the inevitable change called death. It has to be admitted that there is as truly a distorted "educational" development, as there is occasionally a distorted, unnatural and unnecessary physical development.

Should the desire be to see how much of an educational prodigy can be produced, for showing possible attainment, well and good—possibly, as may be the abnormal development of man or horse for exhibition purposes, but it does not follow that such monstrosities are well calculated for the best interests of mankind in everyday life and experience, and certainly not for the highest ultimate good. Of what use is a horse which has been strenuously trained for the race-track to the practical farmer? Or the monstrous physical development of a Sandow or "Terrible Turk" for the ordinary and higher calling of man, or for other than mere exhibition purposes?

When history shows us that the greatest men of the world in all ages, as compared with their contemporary fellowmen of high worldly attainments, have always been those who were of the simple and uneducated classes, it is high time for us to recognize the fact that there is something

more and higher than what is generally termed "education" which is responsible for true education, true evolution and progress.

In a broad and true sense the great life failures have been from the ranks of the so-called learned savants of various ages. Some of them have confessed, but more have conspicuously illustrated the absence of really high attainment. On the other hand the simplest, humblest, and most undeveloped along "educational" lines have manifested to the world the noblest grandeur in soul unfoldment.

It will be noted, as elsewhere stated, that the mental sub-division of man is only one step removed above his physical or lowest station. All of these stations are so important that man cannot be here if he is minus of either; but there is danger in attaching too much importance to that much vaunted mental or intellectual station, the next to the lowest. It is a grand thing to have a good physique, but one might be a physical giant and yet have little of intellectual, moral or spiritual development. The late Alexander H. Stephens, the famous southern Statesman, was a remarkable example of a great intellect in a weak body. His case was an exception to the general rule. It is quite evident that the perfect man will be fully developed in all of his stations or degrees; all in harmony with each other.

That we in North America represent a division

of the human race which is, as before remarked, more highly developed and civilized than is elsewhere found, is quite evident. Why is this so? Is it because we possess more of intellectual perfection? Largely so perhaps, but is it not chiefly because ours is the cosmopolitan nation? There is apparent warrant for the conclusion that our superior development is the natural result of the coming together and intermarriage of many and diverse races, the amalgamation of widely different elements, as hitherto contemplated, forming a homogeneous whole, a new body politic. But there is still something lacking.

In the grand, inexorable, onward and upward march of mankind the inevitable stage of decay is just as unavoidable as is the decay of the vegetable seed, which, planted in the earth, has to give up its life form before blossoming forth into a higher expression or development or beauty. But, notwithstanding our racial achievements, have we not lost sight entirely of the very greatest of all, the spiritual need? Are not the Oriental nations, in a general sense, with their less amount of so-called worldly accomplishment, and with their greater adherence to certain phases of ancient custom, especially in the brutal art of warfare, more spiritually inclined and reverent? At all events it has to be admitted that they worship only *one God*, while we foolishly and very wickedly insist upon worshipping, or upon pretenting to worship a plurality of gods!

We have a great lesson to learn. Let us realize this; that we are carried away with too much devotion to our mere material, our transitory ininterests. This is the great rock upon which has been foundered the great nations of the past—Egypt, Greece, Rome, etc., and it is due to us now to take warning! It is up to us to avoid the tremendous blunders of the past! We must learn to obey the law of the immemorial past—the universal law of all time. We must recognize and be obedient to the higher laws and obligations, for that is the only way to reach real success! We must know that the reality of everything is Spirit—not that which worldly, infantile, erratic science has denominated as material and tangible—mere physical phenomena. We must know that such materiality is nothing more than the phenomena of presentment to us of the mere outward surface or outer covering of the within, the reality behind! The Spirit! That which science has always called the tangible is in reality the intangible! What science has termed the enduring is, as a matter of fact, that which is ever subject to constant change and reversion! The spirit, that which is invisible to the senses and the mind, is absolutely unchangeable! How essential it is that we reverse our mode of living and thinking! Is it not up to us now, at once, to get into the habit of contemplating the real life, powers and forces as spiritual forces, indestruct-

ible, and eternal? Is it not time for us to know that all real advancement is made through the real spiritual development? That nothing else is or can be responsible for true progress—nothing other than the Spirit?

There is nothing in the world, not even a true thought or idea but which at some time came from the Primary Causation—GOD!

If our rose garden gets filled with weeds which choke and kill the real flowers of life and beauty, let us pluck them out by the roots and be rid of them. In other words, if our lives have become too preoccupied with our lower stations, the physical and mental; if habit and prejudice have blinded us to the plain and simple truth, may God give us inclination and determination to do as the apostle Paul did—retire into solitude and *un*learn the trash education, the accumulated and multiplied false notions of centuries, of ages, so as to become receptive to Truth from its natural source, direct from God! We should know and be satisfied with the old fashioned law enunciated by Jesus Christ and the apostles, and be mindful of the familiar maxim, "He alone is great in wisdom and knowledge who is conscious of his own vast ignorance."

To know and become receptive to the spiritual laws we have to be born again, born of the spirit, as Christ said. This is accomplished only by being honest, sincere, earnest, pure in heart, faithful, firm and steadfast respecting the teachings

contained in the Sermon on the Mount. This is not a novel idea—save in being put in actual practice. It is a thing we have so highly regarded that we have put it away, and so very carefully, even out of sight and recollection!

Herein the endeavor has been to show how to really and truly solve the Race Problem, indeed, every problem; to show that there is but one way —strike at the root, in a word, by recognizing and obeying, in spirit and in truth, the eternal and irrevocable command of Christ, those heavenly words which have been thundering down the centuries, "Seek ye *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." This must supersede and supplant the mammon service, in or out of church, perhaps worse in than out! If this seems impossible, just remember that practically all branches of the church are corrupt money getters, notably the Episcopal and Presbyterian administrations in New York City, said to be notoriously the most penurious and cruel of landlords in the city! We must make haste and arouse ourselves from the stupor which has, with ever increasing power of enthralling and making us captives, for many centuries, led us unconsciously away from God and His Truth; from practical, rational commonsense. We may well wish that our deplorable condition was all a nightmare from which we should awaken. But, sad fact, it is a reality from which there is no escape, except by "the straight and

narrow way," that forgotten or neglected, brush-grown and deserted road, the perfection and purity of which has been pointed out to humanity by the divine educators in every age or dispensation.

The long series of ably written articles composing the symposium referred to were contributed by many professional educators, occupying high positions, most of whom were clerical. It is assumed that they all knew of Christ's teachings, particularly His command as to *first* seeking the Kingdom as being the predicate of success in solving any and every problem, but it is impossible to discover in any of those articles even the slightest allusion thereto! Is not this a case of supplanting the very Highest Authority with the folly of man? The spiritually dead theologians and clergy are invited, yea, urged to consider, to pray to God *and in the secrecy of their closets*, for instruction, guidance, enlightenment. They are now and here asked if we have not been setting forth the true and only way to solve the race and all problems?

When we are truly educated, that is, possess spiritual development, have God-Knowledge, we will not look down upon the negro or any other human being of God's creation, but we will acknowledge the fact that every human being intended to be in the "image and likeness of God," our Father, was likewise intended to be of *one brotherhood* as so magnificently, yet so simply expressed in the following words:

"Do you know why We created you from one clay? That no one should glorify himself over the other. Always be mindful of how you were created, for as We created you from one substance, you must be as one soul, walking on the same feet, eating with one mouth and living in one land, that you may be able to show from your being and your deeds and actions the signs of the Unity and the essence of abstraction. This is My Advice to you, O people of Light; therefore profit by this Advice, that you may attain the fruits of Holiness from the trees of Might and Power." (Utterance of The Glory of God.)

If we are rational and sincere we must admit that we are all off the track regarding Religion, that is, Truth; that we are all wrong in the matter of education; that we all err as to the way of solution of the race or other problems, and that we can square ourselves with God and His Truth and possess real and true knowledge only by obeying the divine commands!

CAPITAL AND LABOR

TRUE SOLUTION OF THE GREAT PROBLEM

CHAPTER III

MANY treatises have been published on the question "How Shall Capital and Labor be Reconciled?" The foremost thinkers of America and of the whole civilized world have engaged in the discussion of this most important subject. Capitalists, socialists, scholars, clergymen, lawyers and men representing all lines of thought and action have contributed much of interest and value.

There are many reasons why the solution of this great problem should attract general attention, yet in all its many and varied treatments there has always been a conspicuous absence of the one true solution—namely: due recognition, acceptance and treatment of the underlying principle at the root of the whole matter! *The time is ripe* to consider this, the real and only solution so persistently avoided by able writers of world wide fame.

The present purpose is to show, 1: That the treatment of this vital question by these "foremost thinkers," has been, thus far, pointedly superficial. 2: That the way to reach an absolutely true solution is by *striking at the root.* 3: That to penetrate thereto we must contemplate causa-

tion and sustenance—the eternal basic principle—and not stand in the way of real progress and development.

One renowned lecturer and writer, a reverend doctor, in discussing this question, gives emphasis to the moral phase. He says: "What shall we do? Education, profit-sharing, co-operation, trade unions, arbitration—these are well. But should we ignore the political method"? This from a professional teacher of Divine Truth and methods of procedure. Continuing the writer said: "The party that dared to stand for principle applied in practical measures did free the slaves." He said this in connection with his history of the famous anti-slavery agitation and its results. This is admittedly right so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough—it does not reach down to the real basis. There can be no great and continued success while ignoring the *cause* of all existing matter, of all conditions.

The gentleman further says, "But those who advocate simply education, profit-sharing, etc., forget one thing. They forget what the Whig party forgot; that the present economic problem is a great moral issue, which the logic of events is steadily and rapidly forcing to an issue." "Moral Issue" is good, yes, more than good. It is great. But it is low down in the scale by the side of that which really works the emancipation of mankind. To me it is a serious matter, the fact that a minister

of the Gospel of Jesus Christ does not point out the true situation; the real inherent *cause* of the development of the human race towards perfection.

This eminent divine writes concerning the deplorable effect of trust consolidations, from Maine to California, resulting in despotic monopoly in about every line of industry and extenting practically "over hall and bench, over pulpit, press and over ballot." He quotes from Charles Francis Adams (not a socialist), who wrote in 1871; "The system of corporate life and corporate power is yet in its infancy. It tends always to development; always to consolidation; it is ever grasping new powers or insidiously exercising covert influences. Even now (1871) the system threatens the central government. . . The belief is common in America that the day is at hand when corporations far greater than ever—swaying power such as has never in the world's history been trusted in the hands of mere private citizens, controlled by single men like Vanderbilt or by combinations of men, like Fisk, Gould and Sage—after having created a system of quiet but irrepressible corruption —will ultimately succeed in directing government itself." This writer asks: "Has that day come?" Against such a situation is it sufficient answer to frame pretty words about reconciling capital and labor? Can trade unions, co-operative colonies, profit-sharing schemes, boards of arbitration, even capitalist-owned churches and schools meet the

issue? Is it for men who really serve the public need to cry peace, peace, when there is no peace? For our part we answer that the only power capable of meeting the situation is the concerted moral sense of the whole people. In this we have faith. The American people are not yet enslaved."

I, too, have confidence in the "moral sense of the whole people." But, I have faith in that which reaches far above and beyond mere moral sense and which is at the very base of all true and high advancement: LOGOS! THE WORD! That Incomparable Uplifting Power which comes from the Source of our being into and through the soul of man! It is *God!* Not only the Creator but eternally the Sustainer of all! What is commonly called the "moral state or condition" is not to be considered for an instant as a foundation in contemplating causes and in the solving of vast problems. The *real* man is still in process of creation. He is still working out his destined purpose. His moral phase marks a certain stage of unfoldment, and while it represents a long step above animal conditions, it is yet far short of ultimate attainment. To him who is so fortunate as to possess common sense, however simple and undeveloped in other respects, there must be a full consciousness of the Truth of the Law, that the *cause* of man is perfection—Spirit; That the real man, or ego, is likewise in essence, spirit, and not a mere mineral or vegetable substance, entering into the

composition of the physical body, nor even the moral or intellectual qualities; which are only subordinate to the real life, the real spirit, the real ego.

The actual life of the oak tree is, in essence, contained in the acorn. Now because the acorn is brought within certain relations into a combination with rich earth, sun-light and atmospheric elements, all of which results in the oak tree, it does not follow that this visible manifestation constitutes the real life and its Source.

Entering into the manifestation of man's existence are found; *First*, the various mineral and vegetable elements of the manifold traits of the lower animal; *Second*, the intellectual and moral phases; and *Third and far above and beyond all others*, is the quality less common to the realization of the world: the *real* being the *essence*, of Life! Man is greatly lacking in his lesson of life so long as he considers intellectuality and morality to be the highest attainment and attempts through these alone to solve the Capital and Labor problems, or any other of the various vital problem, before the world.

We can now demonstrate the unvarying Law of Cause and Effect, as follows: The CAUSE, the Author and Sustainer of all we behold, the Eternal self-existing Spirit; a process of working out the "Great Plans" that will not admit of comparison with that which it has pleased the "scientific

world" to term "the material." This CAUSE is the *real*, the Spirit, which is unchangeable, while all else is subject to reversion and change. The real life of man, indeed of anything manifested, is Spiritual. That which covers—so to speak—to the mortal mind, the inner, the real Life behind, we call matter or the material. The Spiritual or real Life is usually undiscernible because of material limitations. Through the cultivation and rapid development of the higher qualities of man in this wonderfully progressive Twentieth Century, the scientists of the future will be compelled to contemplate and wrestle with THE GREAT LAW so little understood hitherto.

A proper consideration of the subject prepares us to realize that the individual man comprises, as elsewhere stated, four well defined stations, namely: first, physical; second, mental; third, moral; fourth, spiritual.

The truth of this can not be refuted.

In the Bible we read an allegorical story of Cain killing Abel, his brother.

Now "Cain" signifies "red or reddish yellow." (Standard Dictionary.) More fully and completely the word Cain means a tiller of the soil, or standing for the mineral, earthly, sensual, selfish side of the soul, in short, the lower nature of man. "Abel" signifies the spiritual or higher nature.

It is a well known fact that during the preceding ages the lower or brutal nature has, in general,

governed the earth. But the two natures, the higher and the lower represented by Abel and Cain, have ever contended for the supremacy, and it is only of recent date that we begin to realize this great truth, that the higher moral and spiritual nature has actually become a potent force in ruling the world.

This idea is in harmony with the theory of the real creation of man from the Adamic age and numberless prior ages to the present.

This contention and strife between the higher and lower nature, is gradually reaching grand results. The higher will, more and more, become uppermost and will apprehend the higher conditions sufficiently to be actuated by lofty convictions and gradually control socialistic, and indeed *all* questions which make for the uplifting of mankind.

God is Spirit and man was to be "created in His image or likeness." This means that real or perfected man was eventually to be spiritual. *If* God is the Author of *all*, then all truth and knowledge must come from God. *If* we are all God's children it must have been part of the plan that we be educated in all wisdom and knowledge, and that teachers were to be provided in accordance with the needs and progress of the world.

Jesus Christ and the prophets and messengers preceding Him were educators; divine educators sent from God, who is the Great Principal of the

world school! While every human being may become a recipient of instruction direct from the Fountain Head, yet the world in general needs guidance to the path which leads up to the abiding place of the Most High. The individual human relation of parent and child presents the necessity of being educated from infancy to maturity; it is a miniature and sign of like relation between the *race* and *its* Father.

The reality of higher teachings and how to secure such is indicated in the memorable words of Jesus Christ. I repeat: "Seek ye *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." The teachings of all ages have declared the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth and that we could not enter therein unless we were "born again—born of the Spirit."

As a summary statement, then, there is only one course to pursue in solving not only the problem of Capital and Labor, but *all* problems, whether great or small, which affect human conditions. Appeal to the Higher Nature of Man! The Real Man. This can be achieved only through obedience to the divine command; again repeated and again emphasized: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, in spirit and in truth," thus, most effectually, "striking at the root" of all existing conditions. All other plans for reforming the world are superficial and futile.

By obeying this incomparable Christ command

and His simple teachings, mankind will establish itself upon the True Foundation. Then all present methods of reform in intemperance, suffrage, greed, dishonesty, marital relations, society, government, etc., will become obsolete; mere dreams lost and left behind in the grand and wonderful upward progress and development. The ultimate life, the outcome, the *effect* of the inevitable, unchangeable *law*, emanating from THE SUPREME, THE INFINITE CAUSE, is to become a reality.

"Be ye therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 5 : 48 Vul.)

This great problem of Capital and Labor will be solved; not through mere intellectual effort or superficial scheme, however, but through obedience of the divine command revealed to the higher consciousness of true men of this great day.

HERESY

THE CRAPSEY CASE—THE TRUTH OF IT

CHAPTER IV

IN considering the subject of heresy particular reference is made to the recent heresy trial of Rev. Dr. Algernon S. Crapsey, a fair discussion of which shows or tends to show that the Church is in reality more heretical than is true of Dr. Crapsey.

"Crapsey guilty; is sentenced to suspension. Verdict of Ecclesiastical Court which tried minister delivered to the defendant in Rochester today. Must conform to Apostles' Creed." These and other words were in the glaring headlines of the daily papers. The above judgment on appeal has been affirmed, deposing Dr. Crapsey, but he has resigned from the Episcopal Church and from his especial charge, the congregation in Rochester with which he was so long associated and by whom he was so much loved.

To the pertinacious sticklers for mere form and the literal, for the "letter (which) killeth" included in the Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds, it is of no consequence, perhaps, that the far worse than absurd creed-dogma was invented, formulated and promulgated by a wicked and corrupt priest-craft of the dark ages, caring more for worldly wealth, voluptuous living, intriguing and political power,

than for being in even the slightest degree mindful of the divine commands of the lowly Nazarene —the Christ whom they falsely professed to believe in and follow.

Dr. Crapsey is right and to be commended for refusing to longer stultify sense, a decent regard for heavenly commands, and reason, by holding to false and impossible doctrines; but why does he want to remain in a false organization, or with hypocritical, false ministers of Christ—a church system which has become Christian in name only? Could he hope to rescue it? If not an altogether hopeless task, is success more than very remote? So long as his church, which may be less Christian than Shintoism is, chooses to hold to such criminal folly; for such it is to defy Biblical divine commands, prohibiting vain interpretation of what was to be explained in manner and time as described by Christ in His Book of Revelation,* it has a right to refuse membership to one who disagrees with it, even though that one who disagrees with the church happens to care more for God's Truth than man-made rules and regulations of church procedure and government—who prefers the reality of Truth to mere superficial form and pretence.

"Blind guides, who strain out a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites; because you make clean the outside

*See chapter on The Bible.

of the cup and of the dish, but within you are full of rapine and uncleanness." (Matt. 23 : 24-25.) "They will put you out of the synagogues : yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you, will think that he doth a service to God. And these things will they do to you ; because they have not known the Father, nor Me." (John 16 : 2-4, Douay Vul.)

It appears that Dr. Crapsey has been convicted of the high crime and suspended because of his dissent to the regulation belief of the church as per the five specifications in the bill of particulars of dogmatic belief, for no single one of which is there warrant in the Bible, as follows :

"1. The doctrine that our Lord Jesus Christ is God, the Saviour of the world, as contained and enunciated in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, and as set forth, indicated and declared in the book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America."

In the light of Truth one may be justified in exclaiming "wickedly absured" ! It is difficult to conceive of a more false declaration. God is Lord only. Christ is the Word (Light of the Truth of God reflected to the world through the perfect *lamp* Jesus of Nazareth) made flesh. (John I : 1-14.) Christ distinctly showed in His parabolic utterances and elsewhere that He was the Sonship Spirit of God, and that God alone was the Lord of the Vineyard—indeed of all the worlds in the

universe. (See Psa. 86 : 10 ; Isa. 37 : 16 ; 44 : 8 ; 45 : 22 ; 46 : 9 ; John 4 : 24 ; Gal. 3 : 20 ; and Rev. 21 : 3-7, which refers to the coming of the manifestation of God Himself, and verses 22-23 clearly referring to both God Himself *and* the Lamb (Christ), making irrefutable distinction between God the Father and the Son !

Christ rebuked the certain ruler for merely calling Him "Good Master," saying : "Why calleth thou me good? None is good, save One, that is, God." (Luke 18: 19.)

There are many places in the Bible where the declaration is made plain and clear that God Himself is the only Saviour ! (2 Sam. 22 : 3 ; Psa. 106 : 21 ; Isa. 45 : 21 ; 49 : 26 ; 1 Tim. 4 :10 ; Titus 2 : 10 ; Jude 25.)

I appeal to the good sense of all fair minded men and women in now asking if it is not unmistakably true that the church is wrong in declaring Christ as other than a Messenger of God in the station of the Son?

There is absolutely no warrant in the Bible or elsewhere for contemplating Jesus as God !

"2. The doctrine that our Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Ghost, as contained and enunciated in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, as set forth, indicated and declared in the book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America."

The church is hopelessly muddled over this

question —a very simple question though it is. "Christ," the "Word," as already explained, was the immaculate conception *of the spirit of and from God*, representing the Sonship manifestation of God—not the physical body. God's laws regarding physical things, however, are just as perfect and divine as His spiritual creations or conditions, but everything in its place. God is Perfection, it goes without saying, and necessarily His Laws are perfection. It is inconceivable that Perfect God would or could do *im*perfection, but after all, if the physical body of Jesus was or could be conceived in the body of the virgin (signifying purity; but not necessarily that she had never known a man) Mary, contrary to the laws in such case made and provided by an Allwise Providence, what does it matter? The essential lesson for us is this, that Jesus Christ taught us to be born of the Spirit and live the life of truth as a little child.

The church is woefully in error in failing to properly differentiate between "Jesus" and "Christ." Jesus was the man, the human temple in which was manifested the Word, the Christ of God! (Acts 2 : 22, 36.)

"3. The doctrine of the virgin birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, as contained and enunciated in the Apostles' Creed and in the Nicene Creed, and as set forth, indicated and declared in the book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America."

This is very simple—but we must get away from ignorant or subborn prejudice. If one would examine and match yarns of delicate vari-colored tints, one must not wear dark green glasses.

The Christ was of course of virgin (pure) birth. It was not the physical man Jesus, however, but it was *the spirit of the love and truth of God reflected in the pure heart and life of Jesus.* That great One said any of the world could have it if they would pay the price; that is, follow Him in "the way, the truth, the life." That is the only way, our only chance for being *receptive*, as He was, to God's Love and Truth, hence, being saved; in other words, attaining unto the accomplishment of our destined purpose!

As matter of fact the only Atonement is this: Chirst declared "I am the way, the truth, the life —*follow me!*" Now, the only way to follow Him is to be in our own individual lives characterized with His virtues and actually live the life He lived. Anything short of this is a delusion and a snare—a base lie; therefore is not any person or church system that ignores this and teaches something else, a falsifier of terrible moment? The reality of Vicarious Atonement, then, was in the fact of Christ *showing mankind the way*, but we must follow in His steps, and that means being meek, lowly, loving, kind, forgiving, unselfish, ready and willing to serve and make sacrifice, even of life if need be—such is bringing ourselves within

the saving rule of the truth of Atonement as Christ taught it.

We have considered the birth of "Jesus" and of "Christ," and declared the necessity of differentiating between the human Jesus and the divine Christ, in connection with the second question or point.

What a terrible abuse of the Truth of God and His Christ; what a deplorably wicked misleading of the people the church is responsible for, in its pronounced and determined ignoring of the spirit of the Christ teachings, and, in diametrical opposition thereto, holding out to the people a measure of safety in, as it asserts merely believing in God, in Jesus, and in the church, and in the creed dogma, and so professing openly. The church positively had no right to change and grossly modify, indeed, practically reverse the requirements as laid down so clearly by Christ! Is it possible to point to a greater or more pernicious crime—for it not only affects this life here, but the life eternal?

"4. The doctrines of the resurrection of our blessed Lord and Saviour as contained and enunciated in the Apostles' Creed and in the Nicene Creed and as set forth, indicated and declared in the book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America."

It is hypocrisy, sniveling cant to employ the words "our blessed Lord and Saviour" and go on

continually disregarding His definition of "ministers" (Matt. 20 : 26-28)—the true minister is servant of all. "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." (Mark 10 : 45 and His commands in the Sermon on the Mount.)

Christ made unmistakably plain the reality of the Resurrection, but the church has persistently made good the prophecy of Christ as to having eyes and seeing not, and ears and hearing not. There never was a more foolish proposition, nay, more, deliberate fraud, than the church contention that the physical body of Jesus was, or was to be resurrected and rise up into Heaven. Christ declared flesh and blood could not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. "A spirit hath not flesh and bones." (Lu. 24 :39.) The spiritual realm is the abode of spirits, not of fleshly bodies. (1 Cor. 15 :50.) Christ's words were clear and plain enough to the thoughtful and sincere. His prophecy of His arising in three days had reference to prophetical days—not to ordinary 24 hour days (there are days of five different durations mentioned in the Bible; see chapter on Symbolic Words), for He declared "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world I am the Light of the world." (John 9 : 4-5.)

The day-time, obviously, was the period of His being on earth; the night-time, the period lapsing

from His departure unto the time of the coming of another manifestation or messenger of God. Thus the *third great religious revelation, counting from His time—Christianity, was to be the real Great Day of Resurrection:* First day or cycle or dispensation, Christianity ; second, Mohammedanism ; and *the great day of theLord*, the third, and then was to appear the Lord of the Vineyard and His Christ or Sonship Spirit to establish the Kingdom of God on earth (Rev. 11 : 15) and to judge all men according to their works. This was to be the day of Resurrection, the last great day, the day of "Most Great Peace" of far longer duration than the combined period of all former days or dipensations from Adam down !

"For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3 : 19), was written of the physical body of man, his earthly dwelling place or "temple," and not of the real man which was made to endure through the endless future ages. The absurdity of the church doctrine which holds to the proposition that the physical body of Jesus arose and ascended into Heaven, and that the physical body of man is to arise on the day of Judgment and Resurrection, is clearly apparent when we contemplate the following scientific facts : the body of man is not the same body it was five minutes previously ! And it is claimed to be indisputable fact that a human body is entirely changed and new in every single year of earthly existence ! Accord-

ing to that, a man of seventy has had *seventy entirely new and different bodies!* When we think of it, is it not ridiculously strange that the highly educated theological and clerical strength of the world, even though barren of spirituality, should have held to such nonsense so long?

"5. The doctrine of the blessed trinity, as contained and enunciated in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed and as set forth, indicated and declared in the book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America."

On this subject of the Trinity the church is equally dense in ignorance and misconception. By its doctrine of the Trinity the church makes itself in reality polytheistic, and polytheism is, to all intents and purposes, practically the same as Egyptian or Roman paganism!

In the remarks hereinbefore on specification number one, references to Biblical quotations are given, which prove the *oneness and singleness of God!* Any other doctrine, idea or belief is absolutely anti-God's Truth.

Here is the real truth regarding the Trinity. It is from Divine source and, of course, is beyond human contravention:

"As to the question of the Trinity, know, O advancer unto God, that in each one of the cycles wherein the Lights have shown forth upon the horizons (i. e., in each prophetic dispensation),

and the forgiving Lord hath revealed Himself on Mount Paran (see Hab. 3 :3, etc.), or Mount Sinai, or Mount Seir (see Ezek. 35), there was necessarily three things, the Giver of the Grace, and the Grace, and the recipient of the Grace; the Source of the Effulgence, and the Effulgence, and the recipient of the Effulgence: the Illuminator, and the Illumination, and the illuminated. Look at the Mosaic cycle—the Lord, and Moses, and the Fire, (i. e., the Burning Bush), the intermediary; and the Messianic cycle, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the intermediary; and in the Mohammedan cycle, the Lord and the Apostle (or Messenger, Mohammed), and Gabriel (for, as the Mohammedans believe, Gabriel brought the revelation from God to Mohammed), the intermediary. Look at the sun and its rays, and the heat which results from its rays: the rays and the heat are but two effects of the sun, but inseparable from it and sent out from it; yet is the sun One in its essence, unique in its real identity, single in its attributes, neither is it possible that anything should resemble it. Such is the Essence of the Truth concerning the Unity, the real doctrine of the Singularity, the undiluted reality as to the (Divine) Sanctity." (Abdul Baha. Translated by Professor Browne of Cambridge University.)

Jesus Christ and all the prophets of God have invariably insisted that God, to whom only we should pray, was all in all, and they have been simply the teachers of the Way unto God.

Should any one question any of the statements affirmed in this chapter, or book, let them consult "Mosheim's Church History," Murdock's Translation, together with the irrefutable authorities therein cited.

Here is the trouble. It is practically the same with the church as it is with "Christian Science," which, in reality, is neither Christian nor science, save in part. When the founder of that wonderful Dowie-like-movement growth, has found some follower bright enough to see that "all is not gold that glitters" and presumes to question any of her tyrannical dogmatism, that person is promptly read out with "the drum's march of the rogue," so to speak, with commands from said founder that the offending expelled one be treated mentally *not for good!* The entire scheme is for money gain. They are a thrifty set, but without doubt, have done much good in the world—more unconsciously than consciously, however. In the church there is a certain parallel. For many centuries the pronounced idea has been that you must take salvation just as the church, in its disobedient attitude, has seen fit to impose from the standpoint of human avarice and selfishness and bigotry, and it, the church, too, stands far more for money-making, than for growth and administration spiritually!

There is no doubt but a majority of the followers of Mrs. Eddy, whom the writer knew in Lynn,

Massachusetts, when she boasted on the front of the house her sign of "Clairvoyant Medium (or Healer"), are sincere, if in certain fundamental and great principles they are very greatly deceived and misled; and I am sure that quite a majority of both clergy and laity of the church are honest and sincere—according to the light and spiritual unfoldment possessed. However it is high time for all to realize that the service of God and of mammon can never go hand in hand together. The clergy should drop their commentaries and false, presuming "notes," and turn to and study the Bible itself! In that great Book of books they will find, if they will turn to the Book of Daniel, divine notice to the world that the Truth, contained in the remarkable parable, symbol and allegory, would not be known until the coming of a Great One at a certain time, dates of whose coming are given in that Book of Daniel, and now understood. Then if they will turn to Revelation 4 and 5 they will find by Whom and how the Truth was to be given to the world. In other portions of this wonderful Book the danger of ignoring or mutilating this book of prophecy is made very plain. Christ made it also very plain that in the meantime we were to be governed by the all-sufficiency of the *Sermon on the Mount.* Has the church obeyed *the divine command?* No! The parent church has been diabolically false from as far back as the 4th century, and the protestant church has

been, perhaps, equally false. One is reminded of the long suffering Puritan Fathers who came to these shores to escape unjust oppression, and forthwith put themselves up as equally tyrannical oppressors, as Roger Williams and many others could doubtless testify, were they here in the flesh.

In a way the church is like an unjust judge who has ignorantly and erroneously rendered a false decision, but rather than admit manfully his mistake, he permits any amount of suffering to result from his impotent action. Has the church been so long committed to stupid falsehood as to be powerless to correct and purify itself?

It is not always easy to realize one's own faults. The church has been in gross darkness and error augmenting so gradually and for so many centuries, there is no great wonder because of its callousness to common sense and truth. For the heads of church government there is not so much blame, after all, as sympathy and pity. In the preparation for their professional calling the educational requirements from school-boy days all the way along through the college and theological training they have had precious little time for original thought, even had they the power. The system of training, beginning before their development for much serious thinking, has necessarily kept them hustling for all they were worth, cramming full of traditional *mis*-information. Why should they, under such circumstances and con-

ditions, have any doubt of the infallibility, as they are taught by those they naturally look up to, of the church system they are entering? After graduation, then it is a question of getting a charge, and naturally as large and important and wealthy a church as possible. Then, has the work become lighter? No. And the chances are that they have got to continue hustling, perhaps harder than ever, to maintain their position and in meeting the constantly growing claims made upon them in pulpit and pastoral work. Consequently what chance is there of their being able to perceive the error of their position? How can we expect them to trace back to the corrupt sources, the serious mistakes, yea, worse than mistakes—deliberate frauds in dogma and creed?

Occasionly a Dr. Crapsey arises and heroically strives to break the fetters. No matter how honest his convictions and motives, or what great conceptions he has of truth, which his church is in positive conflict with, he is forthwith a heretic and must be adjudged criminally (?) Guilty!

The writer has talked with able pastors of New York's most powerful and influential churches who, for instance, made the astounding admission that they did not know the entire life, works, mission and teachings of Jesus Christ predicated and were the preparing of the world for the coming of the Kingdom of God, to be established on the earth by the Lord of the Vineyard Himself; in

fact that they had in reality never considered Christ as a prophet, when, clearly enough and in very fact, He was the *greatest Prophet the world has ever had!*

Of a truth churchianity and Christianity are two entirely different things—two opposite extremes with a wide gulf between!

Now then, all considered, is it not clear that if Dr. Crapsey was guilty, he was guilty of heresy to a false and heretical church, which is itself deplorably guilty of heresy to Christ and His True Church? Is it not perfectly plain that the church which has convicted Dr. Crapsey, is itself far more in need of being converted to God and His Christ, than is the one struggling to throw off the shackles of error and falsehood?

As an illustration showing the result of a certain line of erroneous thought on the part of the clergy and the apparent ease attending the clerical attitude in its very general state of spiritual deadness, note the following:

According to newspaper accounts, the rector of an Episcopal church in Brooklyn, in a defence of Dr. Crapsey, well says: "I am a minister of God before I am a minister of the Episcopal church and as such I repudiate the recent manner of arriving at truth in the case of Dr. Crapsey." But when he says: "The only test of truth is human experience," the prompting is to suggest a halt, a right about face and a profoundly careful con-

sideration of the reality of matters and principles involved. The liberality and broadness of idea he advances in declaring for the human experience "of the race through many generations in many places" rather than the "experience of one individual or one generation," is commendable, but it would have been more commendable had he said *all races* instead of "the race," unless indeed he means all mankind by "the race." He continues: "What human experience has found in that way to be true is divine truth, to whose authority alone a man may submit and still be a free child of God." While there is in a certain sort of way and from a peculiarly inadequte and limited sense, a minute degree of truth manifest in the foregoing, yet in the larger and truer aspect, the reverend gentleman seems to have as incomplete a conception of the matter as he does regarding what it means to be and what is involved in being in very truth a minister of God, as he claims to be. Jesus Christ clearly defined a "minister," as stated, and the question now is, how many ministers of the Christian Church answer to that definition?

Now the "test of truth" in the mind of and referred to by this rector, has to do, it is evident, with human interpretation and dictum of church law and government, rather than with the Truth of God *per se*. Not only is it peculiarly true that man is not, and cannot be until he becomes perfect and in the enjoyment of oneness and intercom-

munication with God, able, as viewed from the consciousness of logic, science and masterful common-sense, to interpret, apprehend and promulgate Truth, but such information and instruction is veritably contained in the Bible of revealed Truth and mandate from God for all the world for all time!

Indeed the Bible, as elsewhere considered, contains the further and explicit information that no man was or would be able to discern the truth involved in the doctrinal points in such voluminous dispute in the different branches of the church, and many other questions embraced in the Biblical symbology, but God would send a Great Messenger to make such explanations! Notwithstanding that notification and the Command that we attend first of all to our individual regeneration; to the overcoming of self and the world and be guided by such rules and principles as are laid down in the Sermon on the Mount, the sad fact is this, that these things our theologians and clergy have totally ignored and disobeyed!

Is it not high time the ministers know or appreciate what it means to be a "minister"—a veritable minister of God and His Christ? Is it not lamentable if theologians and ministers have to be informed by laymen that it is a woeful perversion of the Christ and general Biblical teachings to hold that human experience has found or can find and determine what is divine truth from human in-

terpretation when the Bible itself declares that such is impossible? Why should they have to be informed of what the Bible enjoins; what religion in fact is; what in reality Jesus Christ stands for and that all divine Truth is revealed by God through His prophets and messengers as teachers or educators to mankind in every age or dispensation, and that the body-politic of the church is wrong on practically all great questions?

If there ever was justification for such great reformers of and out from the church as Knox, Calvin, Luther and others, as there certainly was, there is far more need now.

It is disobedience of the Christ commands that is responsible for the church misconception concerning Religion, the Bible, Atonement, Baptism, Resurrection, Trinity, etc., etc.

ELEVEN QUESTIONS TO NOTED RELIGIONISTS

COULD ANY OF THEM ANSWER?

CHAPTER V

N 1904 the following eleven questions were propounded to a carefully selected list comprising thirty-five of the leading and most noted theologians, clergymen and college presidents of the country:

1. Will you give the essence of the Teachings of Jesus Christ?
2. To what extent did Jesus Christ ratify and confirm the Prophecies?
3. What is the reality of meaning as to Resurrection?
4. How do you interpret Deut. 18 : 18?
5. How do you interpret Dan. 12 : 9-13?
6. How do you interpret the 24th chapter of Matthew?
7. How do you interpret Zech. 6 :12-13, Matt. 16 : 27-29 and Luke 22 : 69?
8. How do you interpret Deut. 33 : 2?
9. How do you interpret Isaiah 9 : 6-7 and Dan. 10 : 13?
10. How do you interpret the 5th chapter of Revelation?
11. How do you interpret Titus 2 : 13?

Accompanying the foregoing questions was the following letter to each of the thirty-five:

"My dear sir:

Begging your kind indulgence. I am endeavoring to collect the views of a few of the ablest and most renowned Theologians and Clergymen touching some of the spiritual teachings believed to be of much importance.

I shall appreciate very highly your valuable contribution to a symposium along that line. Such is designed to be of great help to earnest and sincere Bible students and Christians.

Will you be good enough to favor me with your views, by giving such answers as may be convenient, in replying to the inclosed eleven questions, in whole or in part?

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

ARTHUR P. DODGE."

Most of the letters received in reply were declinations because of press of work and inability to give sufficient attention to the subject. Only the following few are here quoted:

"New York, March 22, 1904.

My dear sir:

I long ago resolved never to take part in any symposium of any kind so long as I remain Editor of "The Christian Advocate." Consistency requires me to decline in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. BUCKLEY, (D.D.)."

"The University of Chicago,
Founded by John D. Rockefeller.
Office of the President,
Chicago, March 28th, 1904.

My dear sir:—

Inasmuch as the answers to your questions would involve the writing of several volumes,(!) and inasmuch as I am unable at present on account of illness to do my regular work, I am sure you will kindly excuse me from undertaking to comply with your request of March 23rd.

Yours very truly, WILLIAM R. HARPER."

"Tufts College, Mass., March 22 1904.

My dear Mr. Dodge:

I have your letter of March 18th, enclosing questions. I do not think that I can reply to your questions for two reasons. First, I do not regard myself as a Biblical exegete. The passages of scripture for which you desire interpretation would require a great deal of research on my part and when it was done I fear it would have little value. And the second reason is that I am too busy to give the time even to write out an article which would properly find a place in a symposium.

Very truly yours, E. H. CAPEN."

"Saint Andrew's Church,
New York, March 22, 1904.

Rev. and dear sir:—

I am so very busy that desiring never so much to be courteous I cannot for the life of me take time to answer your eleven questions.

My answer to the first is 'The Fatherhood of God, and the dignity of man.'

The texts you cite are all, I take it, disputed ones of our Lord's second coming. I believe the teaching of a second advent for purpose of a millennial reign to be an allowable interpretation of certain portions of scripture, and a rational belief, but not necessarily an interpretation exclusive of another and dissimilar one, and of a belief directly the antipode of this I have defined. Personally, I look for the coming of Jesus to close the account of sin and shame and gather His elect into Heaven, and His reign on earth *neither attracts nor concerns me much.(!)*

Yours truly, GEO. R. VAN DE WATER."

"Chicago, March 25, 1904.

My dear Mr. Dodge :

This is the 7th week of our Chautauqua work here (Florida) and one more week to come. With my other writing and engagements it does not seem wise to attempt more. Thanking you for invitation to contribute to your valuable publications ;

Respectfully, (Dr.) H. W. THOMAS."

"Ithaca, N. Y., Mar. 24, 1904

Dear Sir :

In reply to your letter of the 18th iust., Andrew D. White is spending the Winter in Europe, and I hardly think he would care to undertake the matter which you propose.

Very truly yours, A. W. NEWBERRY."

"113 West 40th Street,
New York, March 23rd, 1904.

Dear Sir:

Bishop Potter begs me to acknowledge your enclosure of the 16th inst., and to express his regret that his engagements will not permit him to comply with your request.

Very truly yours, G. F. NELSON, per D."

"Fifth Avenue Baptist Church,
New York, March 25, 1904.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of March 23rd, enclosing a list of eleven questions upon which you ask an expression of my opinion, I beg to say that I am extremely busy and shall not be able to find time to give the questions the consideration their importance demands. I therefore beg of you to excuse me from attempting to answer them.

Very truly yours, R. P. JOHNSTON."

"Yale University, Secretary's Office,
New Haven, Conn., March 22, 1904.

My dear sir: —

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your note of March 18th enclosing a series of questions with reference to the teachings of Christ and the fulfilment of prophecy. The questions are of such importance that I would not be willing to answer them unless I could give the matter very careful consideration. This is at present impossible with the press of work that I have on hand.

Regretting my inability to carry out your request, I am, Very truly yours,

ANSON PHELPS STOKES, Jr."

"St. Thomas's Church,
New York, March 19, 1904.

My dear sir:

I regret that it is impossible for me to undertake to make such complete replies to your questions as would be satisfactory to myself, on account of the unusual demands upon my time at this part of the Church year.

Very faithfully yours, ERNEST M. STIRES."

Eloquent answers were submitted by Rev. Adolph Roeder, of Orange, N. J., from the Swedenborgian standpoint, but too lengthy for inclusion here, and the present writer will not assume to give a synopsis.

In this matter it was the desire and intention to present what was believed would be an interesting symposium. Meeting with such poor results in both the number and character of returns, the data was pigeon-holed until now.

Answering these questions appeared without doubt a ponderous undertaking to those brought up in the church of such wholesale division, misdirection and error, yet it will be apparent, after due consideration, that, uninfluenced by church or other more or less ancient folly, the difficulty involved in making such answers, is not so very great after all. It has been said that when the

riddle has been solved, really and truly solved, the true and only answer or explanation is at once apparent and clear enough. Let us see if such is not somewhat the case in this most important matter.

THE ANSWERS (?) TO THE ELEVEN QUESTIONS.*

1. The essence of the teachings of Jesus Christ was the showing by His own life, works, teachings and example the way of attainment for and by mankind; how to become of the Kingdom "prepared for you before the foundation of the world," and for which He taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayer. In a word, the whole Christ lesson was of the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth, and instructing the world of mankind to be prepared for it. He showed the world the way, the only way, when He declared: "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life," and "Follow Me!" There is no possible doubt but that He meant for us to do as He did; that we *must* do as He did, that is, overcome self and the world, or in other words, become characterized with His characteristics! And herein lies the positive and only truth respecting the Atonement! The church misconception and doctrine of vicarious atonement—blood atonement—Christ paying the enormous debt of the sins of the world with His own great sacrifice, is wholly, is absolutely false!

* These answers were written offhand in one evening. The indulgence of the reader is requested.

2. Jesus Christ fully ratified and confirmed the Religious Revelation through Abraham and Moses, indeed all revelation and prophecy.

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them : for this is the law and the prophets." (Matt. 7 : 12.) "Have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto Him saying: 'I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?" (Mk. 12 : 26.) "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, etc." (Mk, 13 : 14.) "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." (Lu. 24 : 27.) "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me." (v. 44) "That the scriptures might be fulfilled." (John 17 : 12.)

3. As to the reality of truth concerning the great question of Resurrection, see Ffth Day in the chapter on Symbolic Words.

4. The clearly apparent interpretation of Deut. 18 : 18 is this : that it is prophecy (by Moses, it is believed,) made about 1450 B. C. of the coming of Jesus Christ. His first coming. The Jews being spiritually dead failed to apprehend. How is it in this time?

5. Dan. 12: 9-13 includes revealed truth of and from God, in the form of notification of great

coming events and commands to the world of mankind, as follows:

a. The inner or real significance of Truth contained in allegory, symbol, parable, etc., of the revealed Truth of God would remain "closed up and sealed" to the understanding of man till a certain time, (the "appointed time" in the Douay Vulgate,) when the ruling of the earth by the lower or beastly human nature would be supplanted by the predominance of the higher or spiritual nature of man, at the time of the inauguration of the New Heaven and a New Earth referred to in Rev. 21.

b. The date of that great inauguration would begin, as is now intelligently and reliably interpreted and understood, and matter of positive demonstration, in May, 1844.

c. Herein is the equivalent to direct command from God to man to not seek vain interpretations, etc. The church has disobeyed.

d. The culmination of these great events means the reality of the beginning of Resurrection and the Day of Judgment! Christ fully ratified and confirmed the words of Daniel, as mentioned, and we see that He, Jesus Christ, also fully explained in Rev. 5 when and how the Book of God's Truth, that is, the seven great religious systems of the world would be unsealed, i. e. the explanations be made, and this was to be the only possible way for man to know the Truth! Christ told the world

to live and do in the meantime according to His Sermon on the Mount, but the world has disobeyed again and again. Instead of obeying Christ and God the wayward human family has exercised its puny imagination in inventing interpretation of that which we were warned man could not know, until explained according to Divine Plan as stated, and has formulated, perversely and wickedly, the worst kind of false creed and dogma respecting such great questions as the Immaculate Conception, the Trinity, Atonement, Baptism, Resurrection, the Second Coming, etc., etc.

e, The above mentioned "time" was to be the time of the separation of the "sheep" from the "goats," the believers from the unbelievers; the purified, tried and tested and faithful, from those who persist in doing wickedly. The former will understand; the latter will not understand!

f. Of course this is the end of the period of "The abomination of desolation" of the Holy Land and the scattering and punishment of the Jews, the former children of God, who are now, together with the gentiles, in fact all peoples from all over the world, already returning to and upbuilding the Holy Land, so long desolate, and at the same time are returning to God's pure Truth, thereby becoming glorified in the happiness of the beginning of the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God in oneness and singleness!

6. The true interpretation by the promised

Authority of the 24th chapter of Matthew is simple, is indisputable :

a. The many trials, tribulations, calamities and tests, and other things, like the carrying of the Gospel of Truth to all parts of the world, etc., were to intervene between Promise and the Great Fulfilment. All is fulfilled !

b. There would be many false Christ's ; claimants to being the fulfilment of the prophesied Second Coming. According to Jesus Christ any one putting forth such claim would in that act itself stamp himself with the seal of fraud.

c. The true Second Coming of the Christ or Sonship Spirit of God would then occur, He coming as before in a "cloud" (meaning the human body, the earthly conditions which are veils to spiritual truth,) with His "angels" (true believers in God and His Truth *and living the life*,) with a loud sounding of a "trumpet" (meaning, as described in Rev. 1 : 10 and elsewhere in the Bible, the Voice of the Truth of God.) Coming in a manner unexpected, as Christ declared He would come, taken with His warning against following after anyone coming in His Name, etc, is clear proof that when the true Coming occurred He would not make proclamation thereof, but would require being apprehended and declared, as by Peter of old, as a final test of faithfulness, and a separation of the sheep from the goats ! Daniel explained who would and who would not know !

7. Zechariah 6 : 12-13 is clear and positive prophecy of the Second Coming of the Christ or Sonship Spirit of God *with* His Great Father Manifestation of the Lord of the Vineyard, as described in chapters 4 and 5 of the famous Book of Revelation. The Temple of the Lord, in the truest and fullest sense, refers to the development, purification and unification of the human heart—the Brotherhood of Humanity for the reception of and oneness with God. It refers also to the great day of "Most Great Peace" on earth.

Matt. 16 : 27-28 plainly refers to the Second Coming of Christ with the Father Manifestation to separate the wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats, the believers from the unbelievers ; to "Judge every man according to his *works!*"

Luke 22 : 69 can be interpreted only as referring to the Second Coming of Christ on earth when He would be on the right hand of and take from Him Who would sit upon the great throne of spiritual loftiness and glory, the explanations as per Rev. 5 and give them forth to the world of humanity.

8. Deut. 33 : 2 is explained as follows and in the only possible way of true interpretation, as perceived by those of purity and spirituality : Moses here refers to God's revelation through him, Moses, at Mount Sinai, in Arabia ; then prophetically of the revelation through Jesus Christ at Mount Seir, in Palestine ; then through Moham-

med at Mount Paran, in the land of Ishmael, and then, most important of all, and to which all pointed with the unerring finger of Truth, to the Great Manifestation of the Father Himself, the Mighty God, the supreme Lord of the Vineyard, the King of Kings, and then through Him Who was to be the fulfilment of the prophesied Second Coming. See answer to No. 9.

9. Isaiah 9 : 6-7 is clear and irrefutable prophecy of the Coming of the Lord of the Vineyard foretold by Christ in His matchless parables, also in His Rev. 11 : 15 and elsewhere. Dan. 10 : 13 is of the same tenor. "For a child is born to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon His shoulder : and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come (vide Rev. 21), the Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9 : 6 Douay Vul.) The dire poverty of the Christian Church in spirituality is made woefully apparent in the fact that it has all along interpreted this grand prophecy as referring to Jesus Christ, notwithstanding that in all of His sublime teachings there can be found not a single expression warranting any such conclusion. On the contrary, Christ repeatedly declared He spoke and worked not of Himself, but of the Father, Who sent Him, and He rebuked the one who addressed Him as "Good Master!" He declared He came not to bring peace, but a sword!

10. The 5th chapter of Revelation describes in beautiful allegory, the manner of making the ex-

planations to the world of that which was revealed through Daniel and would be closed up and sealed till this time. The Great One on the Throne explaining the revealed Truth of the seven great religious systems of the world was Baha' Ullah (meaning in English "God the Most Glorious!"), and He Who stood in the midst—"A Lamb as it had been slain (crucified")—was to be, and could be none other than the Second Coming of Christ, the Annointed Sonship Spirit—not the individual Jesus, as so many ignorantly believe, taking from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, and giving forth to the world the long promised explanations of *all Truth!*

11. Titus 2 : 13, Rev. 11 : 15, and all the Book; the Book of Isaiah from the 35th chapter, and in fact all through the Bible, there is thundered forth the Glorious Message of the "Glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" on this our earth! This positively refers to the Lord of the Vineyard Manifestation.

Obviously it will be seen that if the most learned divines in the country are unable to answer such as the foregoing eleven questions, or if the answers would require an extraordinary amount of time, or if the writing of many volumes would be required for the purpose of recording such answers, there must be something most seriously wrong with those divines or with the church system responsible for their ministry, or both, and such must be the case.

Were one to be so bold as to question the spiritual proficiency of any of the highly educated and very prominent divines here referred to, or to any of the grand Doctors of the Church, would he not subject himself to a most righteous and tremendous denunciation?

What can we expect of a church, or its pastors, which are totally ignorant of the fact that Christ was a prophet—the greatest the world ever had? Or that is looking for the coming to earth of the physical body of Jesus riding on a rain cloud of the air? Or that pretends to believe that the same physical body of Jesus arose bodily into the spiritual realms, when Christ distinctly taught that flesh and blood did not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven? Or that teaches wickedly false doctrines regarding Atonement, Baptism, Resurrection, Trinity, Salvation? Verily the tree is known by its fruit. And verily, and most humbly and respectfully, the so-called ministers of the "Church of Christ," who claim and possibly believe they are "called of God" to the ministry, are hereby referred to Christ's definition of the true Minister in Mk. 19 : 35-45, and to the Apostle Paul's definition Gal. 1 : 11, 12, 15-19; Heb. 5 : 12- 14, and 1 Cor. 9 : 13, 14, 16, 18, 19.

As could have been said in the time of Christ nineteen centuries ago, and as is in order to say today, Which will you do, follow the Church or the Truth of God?

THE FORCEFUL, THE ERRATIC GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

CHAPTER VI

EOPLE are born into the world in all sorts of physical deformity, in many hues of mental deformity, and with no sort of spiritual development or proclivity. It has been said that all members of mankind are insane, and that insanity with all people is only a matter of degree.

Of all malformed creatures in or out of menageries, this Mr. George Bernard Shaw is the limit!

A few years ago there was a young woman, possessed with a morbid craving for notoriety, who went to writing about her dear friend the Devil and her happy home in hell.

I have wondered if Mr. Shaw is afflicted with that sort of disease, or if he really is as mentally, morally and spiritually depraved as his efforts to so convince the world make him out to be? At all events his exhibitions, to which such great publicity is given, stamp his as a very sad case of mental, moral and spiritual degeneracy. Mental degeneracy because of a lack of the rudder of reason and sense; moral degeneracy because of the wanting of inclination for true guidance; spiritual degeneracy because of the conspicuous absence of true parental reverence or respect, of genuine re-

cognition of the law of cause and effect, of due apprehension of the real, the true, the divine Fatherhood. We have asylums for the insane from whom we fear physical violence. Why not incarcerate in prison asylums those who are far more dangerous and who do far more injury to the public by the wide publicity given to their insane, irrational and indecent attacks upon all that which is incomparably true, grand and holy? Assailing a false and degenerate church is one thing; but it is quite another, a far different thing, and a thing which cannot be tolerated, the poisoning the minds of the young and unthinking by insanely, foolishly, wickedly railing against God and His Immortal Truth!

It is an old truism that one man, viciously inclined, can do more damage than can be repaired by ten good men. There has ever been more teaching of evil than of good. The converse of that statement should be true. The bad is self-teaching, while the good and pure needs great and constant urging. Everyone ought to be constantly, earnestly devoted to the promulgation of actions and lessons, of that living and doing which is naturally calculated to appeal to the higher — not the lower nature of mankind.

If Mr. Shaw sees nothing of profound truth and magnificent beauty in Biblical symbology expressed in the spiritual language of the "Burning Bush" and in many other remarkable expressions; if he

is dead to the truth of the eternal law of cause and effect which clearly and irrefutably declares that our causation must of necessity possess all of the qualities of human life, experience and observation, why does he liken God to a mere force or universal power, which, evidently, he would have us believe was as dead or lacking in individuality, intelligence, personality and identity as is the principle of mathematics? Why does he undertake to teach the world of or concerning God, of Religion, of the Bible or as to whether it is true or false in its contents? Why assume to teach of what he is entirely ignorant?

It is contended that a careful perusal of this little book will show that Mr. Shaw and his like are wrong in their loudly vaunted opinions and screeds touching sacred truths —the only matters of reality and worth, and that the Truth of God and His Word in thc Bible, indeed, in all Bibles, is beginning to become apparent.

The frankness, the candor of Mr. Shaw is certainly most commendable, and he may not be blamed as much as the professional religionists for want of knowledge as to the real truth and fact of religion. If he seeks to "spread over the week" the best he can of religion, it is far better with him than with the professional church people, clergy or laity, who wear the mask of sanctimony on Sunday and rob their neighbors the rest of the week.

It is quite probable that Mr. Shaw is honest in intent. If so, he goes about showing it in a curious way. He says: "I am a voluptian . . . I always live the pleasantest sort of life I possibly can and get as much pleasure out of it as I can. What I like is life itself, and that, of course, is the genuinely religious view to take. Life is a very worthy thing. It is a force outside yourselves." What perverted ideas; what misconceptions regarding religion and life! Yet he presumes to teach! Even a child knows that the first, the primary, the very foundation of Religion applied, and of true living, is unselfishness, is love for others, rather than self; is willingness to make sacrifices for others, and is conscious happiness in so doing. He refers to the unholy Crusade wars. Why not also refer to the corrupt indulgence selling practices, the iniquitous Spanish Inquisition, the diabolical torturing and murdering of people in Christian (?) England for merely trying to read the Word of God! He must not continually consider the false and wicked church and man's "Inhumanity to man" as in anyway a part or parcel of the Love and Truth and Knowledge of and from God; that is to say, His Revelation of Religion.

It may be true that all we know of Personality as a characteristic of God lies in the fact of the effect observed by and in us; effect of the Cause —God, but we are sure God has Personality as well as everything else. We cannot, certainly as

yet, grasp the vast limitlessness and glorious eternality of God! But we may and should know that He invariably works according to axiomatic, unchangeable Law and that man is now as much in the process of creation as he was in the time of Adam! There was never a more absurd idea, the idea that God ever did or ever could commit error or make a mistake!

A very great and learned philosopher has said that no one could be in fact learned until he was conscious of his own vast ignorance! Mr. Shaw says: "I am thoroughly satisfied with myself!" Have we not much to learn so long as our personal ego rules us to that woeful extent? But he also says something far better and that which is hard to reconcile with other utterances of his: "I do not want my religion to be a comfort. I want my religion to be a self-respect and courage. I do not want comfort, happiness and pleasure; I would rather be dead, . . . until you come to understand that your brain is God's brain, and your hands God's hands, and unless when your brain and hands are worn out, you are perfectly willing to say, 'scrap that old brain and all the lot, and let the life that is in them go on to a young brain and young hands;' until you have come to this, I do not think that you have solved the final mystery of religion."

If he does not know the reality of Religion, the last quoted words indicate a good spirit and

lofty intention, though they scarcely harmonize with former quotations from him in this chapter.

There have been myriads of notable examples of men with great intellectual development, who did not, because of vain ego, know God and His Truth. Verily the intellect cannot of itself merely, know! Something else, as we have explained, is required.

REMARKABLE PROPHECIES FULFILLED

CHAPTER VII

THE words of the prophets form not only the most important part of the Bible, but prove to be of utmost interest, thoroughly fascinating interest to true Christians, to students, and, indeed, to all people who desire to possess Truth *per se;* real knowledge; Truth in the grandest and fullest sense—providing, of course, consideration of the subject, study and contemplation is rightly directed and pursued.

To the well informed at least it is clearly obvious that the clergy give too little attention to prophecy, and that when some semblance of attention is given, it is so superficial, that no great good seems to result. Why? Because, for one reason, the professional clerical gentlemen have become seriously materialistic and interested along other and merely worldly lines, and further, because they have continued the errors of wicked priest-craft invention, contrary to God's commands, thus they signally fail as a class in the power or gift of spiritual apprehension.

For many centuries the religious teachers, surely overlooking or misunderstanding revealed Truth of God, have been presuming to interpret the

veiled truths of the Bible in their own way, with the result that we have in church circles very peculiar, indeed, grotesquely inadequate interpretation and construction of the magnificent, incomparable truths lurking within the outer portals of the allegorical, symbolical, "miraculous" and parabolical stories or lessons in the Bible. It is clear that it would have been far better had the religious teachers strictly followed the divine example in the life, works and teachings of Jesus Christ and obeyed His commands, instead of inventing so many schemes of creed and dogma, in futile efforts for impossible harmony in many great Biblical statements, so long as they observed the foolish rule of mere literal interpretation of the letter, when spiritual interpretation only would serve the purpose, as indeed clearly declared in the Bible itself. So, having in mind all the circumstances, it is no matter of wonder or surprise to see why our religious systems have been, during the lapse of centuries, gradually getting further and further away from, rather than making headway nearer to, the reality of the spirit of God's eternal Truth!

All along the thought seems to have been too common that prophecy had to do only with the dead past and nothing to do with the living present. But that is all wrong, as we shall see if we approach the subject in the right way, and providing we overcome the doubting Thomas habit of undue prejudice and premature ill-judged rejection.

Let us consider these suggestions fairly and honestly; let us not turn from them without a full and conscientious hearing, nor prejudge the case; let us remember that it is always possible to have been in error on a particular point a whole lifetime; let us recollect that many times in world history one man has been right and all the rest of the world grossly wrong; let us also recollect that we cannot harm Truth if we would, for "Truth is mighty and will prevail"; that we can and will harm ourselves if we go counter to Truth, and let us be determined to be open to proof and conviction.

Jesus Christ is not generally regarded, especially by the clergy, as a prophet, but the real fact is, as elsewhere stated, and as readily seen if we carefully consider the subject, that He was the greatest of all prophets.

Not only did Jesus Christ ratify and confirm the words of all the prophets before His time (referred to and fully specified in another place), but He gave the greatest, most important and far reaching of all prophecies in His matchless parables, "miracles," and remarkable Book of Revelation through Saint John "the divine, the beloved."

We will do well to keep before us these words of the apostle Paul: "Who also hath made us able ("fit" according to the Douay Vul. and "sufficient" according to Rotherham's lit. trans.) ministers of the New Testament; not of the *letter*, but of the

spirit: for "the *letter* killeth, but the *spirit* giveth life." (2 Cor. 3 : 6.)

Let us consider a few of the prophecies which have been already fulfilled, some of them in these very days.

PROPHECY OF THE GREAT MOHAMMEDAN NATION 1898, B. C.

Genesis 16 : 10-15 is a record of prophecy that Ishmael, the son of Abraham by Hagar his bond-woman, would be a wild man with his hand against every man and every man's hand against him, and that he would be blessed of God ; made fruitful ; would beget twelve princes, and be made by God a great nation.

History shows that this prophecy was fulfilled in the great Mohammedan nation. Mohammed the prophet and founder, was a direct descendant of Ishmael. It is indeed obvious that many people have appeared to lack realization of the fact that Abraham was the original founder and father (as a divine agent) of Mohammedanism as well as of Judaism and Christianity, and it is most lamentable that we of the Occident have followed the sorry example of the Jews in denying a messenger of God.

EARTH PROCLAIMED, CONTRARY TO SCIENCE, A SPHERE

The book of Job (1520 B. C.,) besides being a wonderful lesson in patience and steadfastness in the cause of God, is remarkable in other ways.

At the time this book was written the world believed the earth was a *plane* instead of a *sphere*, but read these words: "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place ("space" in the Douay Vul.), and *hangeth the earth upon nothing!*" (Job 26 : 7.) "Whereupon are the foundations (of the earth) fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof?" (Job 38 : 6.) It is evident that these words amount to positive statement, contrary to the holding of the scientific world of those days, affirming the fact of the spherical form of our earth. Clearly the earth must be in spherical form to hang "upon nothing" in space.

WAS THIS A PROPHECY 1500 B. C., OF THE TELEGRAPH?

"He directeth . . . His lightning ("light" in the Douay) unto the ends of the earth." (Job 37: 3.) " . . . a way for a lightning of thunder." (38 : 25.) "Canst thou send lightnings, and will they go, and will they return and say to thee : Here we are?" (v 35 Vulgate.) All considered these words of the prophet come close to the foretelling of our electric telegraph. They were certainly remarkable words to be uttered more than three thousand years ago.

THE PENTATEUCH.

The Pentateuch authorship is a subject of varying opinion, but the very best authorities hold that Moses wrote or inspired the writing of the

prophecies in the first five books of the Bible (save, perhaps, the Genesis account of Creation, and this too is prophecy and will be considered at another time), the laws and ordinances, and the blessing to the children of Israel.

At the time of the destruction of Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem, 586 B. C., all Bibles, we are credibly informed, were destroyed. When the Temple was rebuilt, 515 B. C., under the high priest Ezra, according to the most learned scholars he rewrote the Bible from memory; i. e. the Pentateuch.

JESUS CHRIST FORETOLD BY MOSES 1451 (?) B. C.

"And the Lord said unto me . . . I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall Command Him." (Deut. 18 : 18.)

Jesus Christ was a Jew from among the Jews and was surely the fulfilment of this prophecy. Still the Jews denied, persecuted, tortured and crucified Him. Why? Because they had lost the *spirit* of the Mosaic teachings in their adherence to the mere *letter* of the law only. Have not we Christians made the same great mistake?

A WONDERFUL VERSE OF PROPHECY, 1451 (?) B. C.

This is one of the most remarkable verses in the Bible. In its far reaching prophecy it covers four great world days or religious dispensations which were then yet to come!

"And he said, The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints: from His right hand went a fiery law for them (the people of the world)." (Deu. 33:2.)

The words "The Lord came from Sinai" clearly refer to the Mosaic day or dispensation itself—the manifestation of God through Moses, who appeared at Mount Sinai in Arabia; "Seir" means the manifestation of the same spirit of the truth and knowledge of God through Jesus Christ, who, as well known, appeared at Mount Seir in Palestine, and the words "He shined forth from Mount Paran" without doubt refers to the appearance of the prophet Mohammed at Mount Paran in the land of Ishmael. This together with many other Bible passages clearly proves that we in the Occident have ever been in error in withholding our recognition of this prophet of God.

We must begin over again in contemplating the Bible and Religion, and first of all let us make huge metaphorical bonfires (real fires would be better) of all creeds, dogmas, "commentaries" and other false or inadequate interpretations and teachings in the Name of God and His Truth.

The verse last quoted is truly a wonderful one, especially the latter part, which is most important. The words: "And He came with ten thousands of saints: from His right hand went a fiery law for them" have a remarkable significance, and will be

fully explained in another place* with a practical demonstration of correct interpretation, vast signification and application. The thoughtful are obliged to admit that the prophesied coming of Moses, Christ and Mohammed have been fulfilled. The Jews denied Christ, and we deny Mohammed. Shall we continue to be blind to God's messengers? Nothing more forcefully illustrates the perverseness of mankind than its periodic election as to whom of God's messengers it would elect to recognize and receive!

HUMILIATION AND DISPERSION OF THE JEWS.

Lev. 26:38-9 (1491 B. C.), Deut. 28:62-7 (1451 B. C.), Ezek. 5:10-15 (595 B. C.), and Hosea 3:4 (785 B. C.) are among the prophecies to the effect that the Jews, because of their disobedience to the voice of God through His chosen messengers, notably Christ, should be scattered "among all people from the one end of the earth even unto the other." Any one conversant with history knows these prophecies have been fulfilled. The Jews have been for many centuries wanderers in the four corners of the world, a despised people without a government, without a country, " . . . a reproach among the nations that are round about thee, in the sight of all that pass by." What a terrible punishment has been theirs! But God is surely "justice tempered with mercy." "Afterward

*See chapter on Symbolic Words of the Bible (Day); Prophecy; Signs of the Kingdom, and "Eleven Questions."

shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God and David their king, and shall fear the Lord and His goodness *in the latter days!*" is already being fulfilled. The Jews, in accepting the great truth of these days, are now actually becoming believers in Christ, and they are now beginning to return to the Holy Land in large numbers.

DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON FORETOLD 713 B.C.

The destruction of ancient Babylon was prophesied in chapters 13 and 14 of Isaiah. The desolation of ruinous remains is a gruesome witness to the fulfilment of the prophesies. This woeful disaster was brought upon those people by their own sin of departing from God and His Truth. The "sun" being darkened meant that the Truth of God had become a dead letter in the hearts of the people, and "the stars of heaven" not giving their light, referred to the clergy, who had become *dead* spiritually in proportion as they became powerful intellectually. How do those conditions compare with present days?

ELECTRIC CARS AND AUTOMOBILES FORETOLD 700 B. C.

"The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broadways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like lightnings!" (Nahum 2 : 4.) These words seem to very clearly foretell the coming, twenty-

six hundred years later, of our present electric cars and automobiles.

Some hold that this and other prophecies in the book of Nahum were fulfilled in Nineveh about two thousand years ago, but the 15th verse of the first chapter: "Behold upon the mountains the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth Peace!" seems to bring the fulfilment to our times, for never before was there a Divine Declaration of the Day of Peace on earth! Although many believe Christ brought the Day of Peace, He Himself is the best authority to the contrary. He declared that He came not to bring peace, but a sword! His mission was to prepare the world for that great reality for which He taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayer. On this point it is a singular fact that ever since Christ there has been an increase in the art and science of war and destruction of human beings in each succeeding century! That is hardly compatible with the Day of "Most Great Peace on Earth!" And it is awkward for us and other Christian nations to be sending our missionaries to convert Orientals, when we are bound to admit that we are less civilized than they in the direction of that grand culminating period of "Peace on earth, Good Will to men," predicted by Christ and all the prophets! Is it not time to attend more to our own children, and less to our neighbor's?

RIVER NILE PROPHECY FULFILLED AFTER 2600 YEARS.

On Sunday morning, February 10, 1901, New York papers contained this cable news:

"Cairo, Feb. 9.—The dam across the Nile at Assouan now reaches from bank to bank, though much work remains to be done. Sir John Aird, the contractor, has walked across. He is the first man ever to cross the Nile dry footed."

The above was in fulfilment of the remarkable prophecy by the prophet Isaiah about 700 B. C.

"And the Lord shall lay waste the tongue of the sea of Egypt, and shall lift up His hand over the river in the strength of His Spirit: and He shall strike it in the seven streams, so that men may pass through it in their shoes ("go over dryshod" in King Jas. version) (Isaiah 11 : 15 Douay Vul.)

Many things occur seemingly by chance or by the mere will and planning of man, but everything is according to law, inexorable law, and often God works out things in a singularly mysterious or unexpected way.

Among the subjects for consideration hereafter are the remarkable prophecies of a "New Heaven and a New Earth" and regarding a "City" "coming down from God out of Heaven."

These matters, like apparently unsolvable riddles, are, when the key of *explanation* is available, resolved into simple, practical everyday matters of fact, wholly divested of indeterminateness and mystery.

CAUSE OF CRIME—THE CHURCH

CHAPTER VIII

THE able and efficient head of one of the greatest police systems of the world has declared that the cause of the pronounced increase of crime in New York, is the influx of criminal classes from abroad. He seems to be of the opinion that the immigration officials are too lax.

The above is from an interview, and in the same paper appeared an account of another interview, one with a prominent district attorney "of twenty years experience with crime in its every phase among all classes of society," referring to the recent statement by a well known Episcopal Bishop to the effect that while pastors, in the name and church of Christ, should be leaders, they are not, but "that in all times and in all places—from the very beginning of things—the priest has always taken his color from the people to whom he ministers." And goes on to quote the district attorney as holding that crime is not on the increase in the lower or higher classes, and particularly that high society is not going to the dogs, or is better or worse than ever. He is also made to defend the church as being of "high moral tone!"

CRIME ON THE INCREASE

If we are able to look fairly at things as they are, the fact is apparent, it is here contended, that crime—murder, robbery, assault and suicide—is on the increase, and notoriously so.

Under all the circumstances, and considering the subject from all points of view, the words of the district attorney are surprising, and the words of the bishop are peculiarly surprising. To both we enter our dissenting protest.

A New York morning paper, November 17, 1906, contained the following: "During the last five years 45,000 persons were murdered in the United States. More persons were murdered last year than died of typhoid fever. This awful total has been due to the way in which the law was administered. And the law itself is bad and inefficient. It is burdened with restrictions and technicalities, and in almost every case the criminal has nine chances of escaping, to one of being found guilty!

"So declared Judge Marcus Kavanagh last night in an address before the alumnae of St. Ignatius's College on 'Enforcement of the Law in Large Cities.' He declared that the United States was the most criminal country in the world and the jury system the most loose and antiquated." (Chicago.)

THE UNDERLYING AND PROXIMATE CAUSE OF CRIME

World sin-sickness is the real cause of crime! And the cause of this universal disease of sin-sickness is the positive unfaithfulness of the church! The conditions now prevalent are recurrences of similar conditions many times existing in the world.

The paradoxical truth is evident. Notwithstanding the great increase of crime, yet, on the whole, it is equally evident that the world is constantly growing better; that is to say, the truest type of manhood is ever gradually growing and developing unto the human station designed before the foundation of the world; towards that completed creation of man in the image and likeness of God—not in outline and form, but in spiritual unfoldment and substance.

The Bishop referred to errs when he says, practically, that the priest has never been better than his parishioners. Can such be the final result of his observation and experience? Does he forget the innumerable reformers, sincere, honest, self-sacrificing, who have enthusiastically forsaken ease and comfort, often luxuriousness for the iniquitous inquisition, the torture chamber, and the stake? And how about the countless hordes suffering martyrdom, willingly, joyously, for God and conscience, in all ages, in spite of the established though in reality fallen church?

There is a far deeper cause of crime than is generally recognized. It is deeper than the law can reach. You can enact laws prohibiting erime, but they don't do it. Something more than the lower nature, the brutal animal, has to be reached and developed—the higher nature, the real man, and this was the office of Religion to perform, and the promulgation of Religion devolved upon the church, but the church is now false and always has been false, the most of the time, periodically towards the close of each of the great prophetical days or religious dispensations; the periods when God has revealed anew His heavenly teachings for the guidance and direction of His creatures. Undoubtedly the vast majority of imported criminals referred to by the police-head come to these shores from "Christian" lands. While the church in the United States is in a terribly sin-sick state, it may not be and probably is not as deplorably bad as in some of the foreign Christian countries.

The Roman Catholic Church, though not in control of this government, is wonderfully potent in influence and power, and in many other countries far more potent—in some cases the dominant power. It assumes, and wholly without divine authority, among other things, to grant remission of sins, and plenary dispensations which, in fact, are practically and in effect the same old diabolically wicked man-invented schemes of indulgence selling, of centuries ago! Ever since the fourth

century this church has been far more devoted to money getting, to luxurious living, to politics, than to God and His incomparable cause of eternal Truth!

The Creek Church has for years been the dominant power in Russia, and, so far as the general welfare of the people is concerned, what is there beside grossest injustic, tyranny, oppression, and outrageous slaughter of the innocent in that great, but benighted and barbarian country? It is only necessary to mention the ignorance and poverty of the down-trodden masses, and the inhuman massacres of the Jews.

Then there is the Protestant Church "of Christ" with its large number of conflicting and quarrelling divisions and sects. There were more than thirty of those sects or denominations represented at the Church Parliament or Convention held in New York in 1906. Some of the ablest lights among the delegates there clearly proved they were in no wise justified in claiming to be ministers of Christ and the called of God. This was made sufficiently apparent by their making labored arguments to prove the impossible, namely, Jesus, the man of Nazareth, to be greater than God! Think of it! To know absolutely nothing of the reality of the Christ life, works, and teachings! They also labored to prove that Christianity is the only true religion, and other equally absurd and false propositions.

Now let us consider a few of the absolute falsities of the modern church, questions it stands for in such wise as conclusively proves it to have lost almost totally the spirit of Christ's teachings, and to have forsaken the path of God.

Its conception and propagation of the matter of the Trinity is one of the most potent examples, virtually transforming Christianity into polytheism, practically tantamount to Egyptian paganism! In contradistinction Jesus Christ and all the messengers of God have taught *the oneness and singleness of God!*

Vicarious or blood Atonement and Redemption. In its treatment of this great but most simple matter, the church makes it appear that the Eternal God could and did make a mistake! There is absolutely no warrant in the utterances of Christ or in the Bible, in any Bible, for the easy going, false and misleading doctrine that Jesus Christ paid the debts of the sins of the world by His death and blood,providing we profess a belief in Him and in God and join a church! Rather, He declared and as plainly as could be, "I am the way, the truth, the life—follow Me"! The only possible right construction of these words is that we must do as He did, become characterized by His characteristics! That is the Truth, in a word, of atonement! He showed us the WAY! there is no *other!*

Baptism. What a variety of thought and dis-

agreement over this great and most important, yet very, very simple question to undersand. Readily understood, if we are able to let go of puffed up egotism. Jesus Christ clearly propounded the principles involved in the three baptisms; first, that of water, signifying spiritual teachings of God, which, when we have heard and not rejected, we have partaken of the first baptism; second, that of the spirit, when we have accepted and believed and have faith in those heavenly teachings; and third, the baptism of fire, the fiery trial and test, the countless obstacles in our path of attainment, the climbing the spiritual mountain of *overcoming the world and self* as so beautifully set forth in Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and in Wagner's Parsifal! Indeed, the whole thing is to follow in the steps of Christ! Verily, there is no other way.

Resurrection. There is absolutely no sense or reason in the narrow, inadequate and false doctrine of the church in this matter of resurrection. The reality of resurrection is a great spiritual lesson. It is, as a matter of fact, the very time and fulfilment of resurrection *now!*

It is the same as to THE DAY OF JUDGMENT and many other great and important questions of vital moment to mankind.

The creed and dogma of all three of the divisions of the Christian Church, and its sub-divisions, were invented and formulated by men cen-

turies ago, in plain violation of divine instructions and commands contained in both the Old and New Testaments.

It does not require much ability or power of understanding to now clearly see that a church guilty of the foregoing, and which plainly holds open to the world of mankind perfect immunity from sin, if it but profess God and Christ and join the church, is the proximate cause of and is responsible for moral degeneracy, weakness and crime! By its easy methods and complacent attitude; by its criminal negligence; by its deliberate disobedience of the Bible commands, the church as an institution fosters carelessness and finally hypocrisy and crime on the part of the individual.

What say you of these modern utterances? A great minister of a Fifth Avenue church argues that "Christianity is the only God-made Religion. All others are man-made," and thus proclaimed his ignorance of the teachings of Christ, who fully ratified and confirmed "the religions of Abraham and Moses." That minister also made conspicuous his lack of knowledge as to the reality of religion. It is clearly apparent he fails to realize that religion is revealed Truth from God, and is never of man.

A pastor of a large and popular Broadway church declares that any person questioning the fact, as he said, of the literal bodily ascension of

the prophet Elijah with his chariot into Heaven should be condemned. This misguided and most unfortunate minister loudly proclaims also that Christians *are not under the law of Sinai, but are under grace.* Both propositions are such plain examples of error; such self-evident deviation from God's Truth, I forbear underestimating the reader's intelligence with arguments and Biblical proofs.

Another very popular and successful (?) minister, a renowned evangelist, actually refers to Mary, the mother of Jesus of Nazareth, as the mother of God! No one with a pure, honest heart, needs the proof, easily given, that there is absolutely no Blble warrant for such a shameful statement.

Another pastor, a very good and venerable man, with a great church for many years, refers to Jesus Christ as "The Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (Read Isa. 9 : 6-7.) Yet Christ Himself plainly declared He came not to bring peace, but a sword (the knowledge and power to divide Truth from error); that He did not the works of Himself, but of the Father who sent Him; that God *was* His Father; and in answer to a certain ruler who called Him "Good Master," rebuked him, saying, "Why calleth thou Me Good? There's none Good but One, that is, God." That great and very important Isaiah prophecy

undeniably refers to the coming of the same One Christ called The Father, and in His parable of the Wicked Husbandmen, *the Lord of the vineyard.* (Luke. 14:16-24; 20:9-18).

Another very able and popular pastor not far from Fifth Avenue, New York, openly declares he has no use for "faith," which he classes with other Biblical expressions, as merely "sentimental" and as no longer needed. I would like to ask this minister if it would not be better to work for the reform of his church and of the people, rather than labor to revise and reverse or negative the eternal utterances of Christ and His Apostles and Disciples? Let him and all reflect and know that the Word of God never changes; that it is the same yesterday, today and forever. Of a truth it is only those who are devoid of Faith, indeed of spirituality, who are unable to apprehend Faith.

"Look ye at the time of Christ: had the people realized that the Holy Spirit of God was speaking to them through His Divine mouth, they would not have waited three centuries before accepting Him. And now is it meet for you that you are sleeping upon the beds of idleness and neglect, while the Father whose coming Christ foretold has come amongst us, and opened the Greatest Door of Bounteous Gifts and Divine Favors? Let us not be like those in past centuries, who were deaf to His Call, and blind to His Beauty; but let us try and open our eyes, that we may see

Him; and open our ears that we may hear Him; and cleanse our hearts that He may come and abide in our temples. These days are the days of *Faith and Deeds*—not the days of words and lip service. Let us arise from the sleep of negligence, and realize what a great feast is prepared for us; first eating thereof ourselves, then giving unto others who are thirsting for the Water of Knowledge, and hungering for the Bread of Life. These great days are swiftly passing; and once gone they can never be recalled. So while the rays of the Sun of Truth are still shining and the "Center of the Covenant of God" is manifest, let us go forth to work; for after a while the night will come and the way to the Vineyard will not then be so easy to find." (A. B. A.)

The human being was ordained by God to become spiritual and loving. That is the meaning of being created in the image and likeness of God; for God is Spirit, is Love.

Religion always was, is and ever will be the source and basis of all Truth, real Education, true Guidance. It is the one kind of education that really educates. It alone unfolds, develops, perfects the higher, the spiritual nature—the real man! Summed up in one word—it is *God-Knowledge!*

When the church becomes so dead spiritually as to not only fail to promulgate the reality of

God-Knowledge—Truth, Love, Spirituality; that is to say, RELIGION, but actually leads people astray in the downward path, rather than upward; away from, rather than unto God and His eternal Truth, as it, the church, is in fact doing today; when the church stands only for exaggerated intellectuality, with only a mere smattering of morality, and practically no spirituality, has it not become as much of a corpse ready for interment, as was the church of the religion revealed through Abraham at the time the followers became Egyptian slaves and as was the church of the pretending followers of the prophet Moses when Jesus Christ arose at another call of God?

I sincerely wish it were not so, but there is absolutely no use in denying or ignoring the truth, the fact; the most scathing indictment against the false church has to be returned! "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin"!———Weighed in the balance and found wanting"!

The "Christian Church," speaking generally, is neither godly nor Christian. It is not only a negative quantity and useless for good in the incomparable cause of God, but it is guilty, grossly guilty of the high crime of wilfully deceiving and misleading the people. There is no other crime so great!

Deadness to God and His Truth, spiritually, is the fundamental, the proximate cause of crime.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

It is submitted that a church which persists in disobeying the mandates of God by accepting and preferring man-made interpretations and constructions of the mysteries in the Bible, instead of waiting for the true explanations, as promised in both the Old and the New Testaments; which refuses or neglects to obey the great and sufficient Truth promulgated by Jesus Christ and contained in the First and Second Great Commandments, in the Golden Rule, indeed, in the entire Sermon on the Mount, which doggedly adheres to false doctrines, creeds, beliefs, all man-invented, for which there is absolutely no support or warrant in the divine Scriptures—the materialistic story of Adam and Eve and the garden of Eden, of Noah and the flood, of Jonah and the whale, of the resurrection of the physical body of man composed of water and mineral and vegetable matter renewing and giving man in his ordinary lifetime many new, separate and distinct physical bodies; of the resurrection and ascent into the spiritual realms of the physical body of Jesus; the doctrine of blood atonement and redemption in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ for the sins of the world to all who "believe" and "join the church"; the polytheistic God-head of three in the "Trinity"; the habit of praying in public contrary to Christ's explicit direction; the false, non-spiritual and inadequate

conception of the reality of baptism as clearly propounded by Christ; the persistence in presenting such woefully untrue and inadequate propagation of religion and biblical teachings as to make it impossible for honest, sincere and thoughtful truth-seekers to accept; the maintaining of a system or profession of ministers and pastors in diametrically antagonistic opposition to the principles and rules established by Jesus Christ; in holding to imagery in pagan fashion and failing to acknowledge, obey and worship the One True God; in these and in other things, the church, in its false attitude and spiritual deadness, has made of itself a debauched and filthy leper and has cast an influence, so far as it could among able and thinking people, which has tended for centuries and now tends against rather than for God and His eternal and magnificent Kingdom of Truth.

Thus the irrefutable conclusion is this: the indictment against the church, we sadly declare, must stand. There is no escape from this, for the church, in directly promoting among the children of God vain ego instead of childlike humility; dissimulation and deceit instead of candor and sincerity; hypocrisy instead of truth and honesty; false instead of true belief and faith, has succeeded in making of itself the fundamental and proximate cause and tremendously active promoter of crime.

The foregoing being the positive truth of fact, it is clearly self-evident that the only cure for crime

lies in the striking at the very root of things, namely, obedience to the irrevocable Christ command: "*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness*"!

Is it not most natural that the beginning must be made with the Church itself? But is it possible? The established church of the world in the time of Christ had to go under, practically speaking, and will it not be that way now again? The church is far more needy of repentance and conversion, than is the majority of comparatively innocent and sincere laity, and, indeed, the majority of the people outside of the church! The hope is again in the humble people, the simple fishermen, as it was withthe beginning of Christianity! We must become reconciled to God and our fellowmen. Then there will be no crime.

PEACE

CHAPTER IX

KNOW thou, verily, the Sun of Truth hath shone forth with the Lights of Peace upon all regions. Strife and conflict will surely be removed from among all the nations of the earth. Carnage shall be taken away. Fighting, violence and reviling will be changed into universal reconciliation, and the hosts of tranquility will pitch their tents in the midst of the world. Then the Awning of the Mercy of thy Lord will be hoisted, and those souls who are free from the filth of prejudice, contradictions and presumption, and are filled with a love that imparts affinity, intimacy, affection, meekness and humbleness, will be sheltered under it. Upon thee be greeting and praise." (Abdul Baha. Translated from the Persian.)

Open letter to Honorable Andrew Carnegie, President, and the Officers and Members of the National Arbitration and Peace Congress:

"You are respectfully invited to carefully consider the following remarkable words, so manifestly pertinent at this particular time.

Professor Edward G. Browne, of Cambridge University, England, in 'A Traveller's Narrative' (Macmillan & Co., 1891), referring to his first

meeting with His Holiness Baha'Ullah, said in part:

'Though I dimly suspected whither I was going and whom I was to behold (for no distinct intimation had been given to me), a second or two elapsed ere, with a throb of wonder and awe, I became definitely conscious that the room was not untenanted. In the corner where the divan met the wall sat a wondrous and venerable figure, crowned with a felt headdress of the kind called *taj* by dervishes (but of unusual height and make), round the base of which was wound a small white turban. The face of him on whom I gazed I can never forget, though I can never describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul; power and authority sat on that ample brow; while the deep lines on the forehead and face implied an age which the jet-black hair and beard flowing down in indistinguishable luxuriance almost to the waist seemed to belie. No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before one who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain!

'A mild, dignified voice bade me be seated, and then continued:—'Praise be to God that thou hast attained! . . . Thou hast come to see a prisoner and an exile. . . . We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations; yet they deem us a stirrer up of strife and sedition worthy of bondage and banishment. . . . That all nations

should become one in faith and all men as brothers ; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened ; that diversity of religion should cease, and differences of race be unnulled — what harm is there in this? . . . Yet so it shall be ; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and *the most great peace* shall come. . . . Do not you in Europe need this also? Is not this that which Christ foretold? . . . Yet do we see your kings and rulers lavishing their treasures more freely on means for the destruction of the human race than on that which would conduce to the happiness of mankind. . . . These strifes and this bloodshed and discord must cease and all men be as one kindred and one family. . . . Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country ; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind. . . ."

'Such, as far as I can recall them, were the words which, besides many others, I heard from Baha. Let those who read them consider well with themselves whether such doctrines merit death and bonds, and whether the world is more likely to gain or lose by their diffusion.'

Count Gobineau of France, Baron Rosen of Russia, and Professor Browne of England, above quoted, are the most distinguished and authoritative Persian and Oriental Religion historians.

In connection with the foregoing and in view of the wonderful world happenings of the present

time, I beg to submit for your earnest consideration, the following words of Christ and the prophets regarding "*He whom God shall manifest*," Who was to come to establish on earth "*The Most Great Peace*," or in other words, *the Kingdom of God!* This Great One was described by Moses, speaking prophetically, in these words:

"He came (will come) with ten thousands of saints (meaning true believers on earth at the time of that coming"). (Deut. 33 : 2.)

By Isaiah: "For a Child (shall be) born to us, and a Son (shall be) given to us, and the government (shall be) upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, God the Mighty, The Father of the world to come (see Rev. 21), The Prince of Peace! His empire shall be multiplied, *and there shall be no end of peace;* He shall sit upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom; to establish it and strengthen it *with judgment and with justice* from henceforth; the zeal of *the Lord of hosts* will perform this." (Isa.9 : 6-7 Douay V.)

By Zacharias: "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: I am returned (shall return) to Zion, and I will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem (Heavenly or Spiritual conditions); and Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, and the Mountain of the Lord of Hosts, the Sanctified Mountain (Mountain of God, Carmel. Isa. 35 : 1-3 : 64 : 9-17.) . . . Behold I will save my people from the land of the

East, and from the land of the going down of the sun. And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem (meaning true religion): and they shall be my people, and I will be their God in Truth and in Justice." (Zech. 8: 3, 7, 8 Douay.)

By Daniel: "I beheld therefore in the vision of the night, and lo, One like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven (earthly human conditions), and he came even to the Ancient of Days (the Manifestation of God in the great Station of the Father): and they presented him before Him. And He gave him power, and Glory, and a Kingdom: and all peoples, tribes and tongues shall serve Him: His power is an everlasting power that shall not be taken away: and His Kingdom that shall not be destroyed." (Dan. 7: 13-14 Douay Vulgate.)

By Jesus Christ: "The Lord of the Vineyard (God, the Father Manifestation) will come and will destroy these husbandmen (undutiful clergymen), and will give the Vineyard (earth) to others." Lu. 20: 15, 16.)

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1: 8.)

"And I wept much because no man was found worthy to open the Book (the revealed Religion of God) nor to see it. And one of the ancients said to me: weep not; behold the Lion of the

tribe of Juda, the root of David (the Manifestation of God), hath prevailed to open the Book, and to loose (explain) the Seven Seals (seven great religious systems of the world) thereof." (Rev. 5 : 4, 5 Douay.)

"And there were great voices in heaven, saying : The Kingdoms of this world are (shall) become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ ; and He shall reign for ever and ever." (Rev. 11: 15) ; "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . . And I John saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem (new religious revelation), coming down out of heaven from God. . . . And He that sat on the Throne (lofty spiritual station of power and glory) said : Behold, I make all things new." (21 : 1-5). "And the City hath no need of the sun, nor of the moon, to shine in it. For the Glory of God hath enlightened it, and the Lamb (the Christ or Sonship Spirit of God at Its Second Coming *with* The Father) is the Lamp thereof. AND THE NATIONS SHALL WALK IN THE LIGHT OF IT : and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honour into it." (v 23, 24.)

It was the Great Manifestation of God referred to in the foregoing and innumerable other prophecies, who uttered the remarkable words first here quoted from historian Browne.

While the aim and work of your organization is admirable and intended for the best of purposes and results, is it not worth your while to consider

"striking at the root" with your efforts by acting as free-will agencies of the Divine Truth, Will and Love, in earnestly propagating His revelation of true religion, so grand and so supremely well calculated to not only work for the cause of Peace, but bring about, and more rapidly and effectively than in any other way possible, the literal Brotherhood of man under, for, and with the Fatherhood of God in Oneness and singleness?

Is it not high time to recall the conditions preceding and attending the fall of practically all great nations of the past? In every case it was because the people had forgotten and turned away from God! Success (?) in war and conquest, achievement in the arts and sciences, high intellectual development and therewith intense vain ego: these were the causes, as clearly seen from this distant viewpoint, of the decline and fall and extinction of vast nations and cities and peoples, shortly following the zenith of their power and material grandeur. Are not we in America in just about the same condition of those past great nations just prior to their dissolution? Shall not we take warning of that past? Why not come to our senses and quickly? Why not realize, and before too late, that mere mental growth will not save us any more than will physical prowess? International agreement or law alone will no more save us, than do our present Statutory Laws of prohibition prevent or even lessen murder and other crimes! It is in-

deed time to take to sackcloth and ashes humility before and acknowledge, worship and serve the One God, in Spirit and in Truth! This Christian world of ours is already drifted into polytheism, which is substantially the same sort of idolatry as Egyptian paganism. These things may not be pleasant things to hear, nor is it pleasant to face the alternative of leg amputation, but it is more foolish and fatal by millions of times to turn from God as we have been and are doing, than to hide our gangrene leg from the surgeon. We must face the situation. Let us right-about-face!

Very respectfully,

New York, April 14, 1907. Arthur P. Dodge."

A duplicate of this "Open Letter" was mailed by noon of April 15, 1907, to "Hon. Andrew Carnegie, President of the National Arbitration and Peace Congress, 19 West 44th Street (Room 8), New York," also to each of three prominent New York City daily newspapers. No acknowledgment whatever has been received, nor was it observed that there has been any attempt at the discussion of the wonderful Tidings included in and forming the basis of that "Open Letter."

From the observation of the writer at the one meeting of said Congress he attended in Carnegie Hall, and from the general and voluminous press notices of all its meetings, largely composed of intense members of what appeared to be a sort of

perpetual mutual admiration society, there was, it seems, a conspicuous absence of anything which might be well calculated to promote the avowed objects of said Congress.

On the contrary, there was clearly in evidence frequent manifestations of rivalry, jealousy, injustice and even decidedly un-Christian disagreements, and worse still, open contentious warfare, some nearly coming to actual blows, apparently, right on the platform in front of vast audiences! —Think of that sort of an *ensemble* in the Name of God and His Christ! That gathering of mighty men, mighty with loud eloquence clamoring for peace—"When there was no peace"—in the way they went about getting it! The only possible way of attaining the "Most great Peace" on earth they wholly ignored. Who were those delegates and speakers other than "Scribes and Pharasees, hypocrites" to be driven from a desecrated temple service under presumptuous claims of heavenly auspices? What was there in that "Peace Congress," let us ask, which could be construed as making for Peace on earth? For the world Brotherhood of Man? For the universal Fatherhood of God in Oneness and Singleness? Vain individual ego and prodigious clamoring for notoriety, praise and mutual admiration will accomplish nothing for the object stated, any more than the assinine ego of a villanous Nero could avert the rapid decline and fall of the once great mistress of the world,

the Roman Empire. In both instances puerile man was and is such a consummate fool as to think he could or can accomplish anything worthwhile without fully acknowledging and constantly striving to faithfully serve God and His Incomparable Cause.

There will never be "Peace on earth and goodwill to men" through law, dogmatic degree, or mere intellectual effort. It can only come through conversion, real conversion: not by being converted to a false church or creed, but by being in reality converted to God and His Truth! And positively the only way thereunto is through individual and personal overcoming of self and the world! When Jesus Christ before His crucifixion declared "I have overcome the world!" the Jew murderers could not understand, but laughed in derision.

It is up to us to be about the accomplishment of the main, the real work of life. That is our business—to attain unto a knowledge of and Oneness with our real and only Father—God. And that is only possible by possessing a pure heart, and this is possible only by becoming like unto a little child, and this means becoming personally possessed of the Christ characteristics! Therefore let go of peace congresses — unless for the purposes herein set forth, for mere laws or agreements in an intellectual sense are but one remove

from and above the brute force of the barbarian savage!

Let man seek to know himself and his God; let him become regenerated, then the inevitable result will be the Brotherhood of Man and

THE MOST GREAT PEACE ON EARTH!

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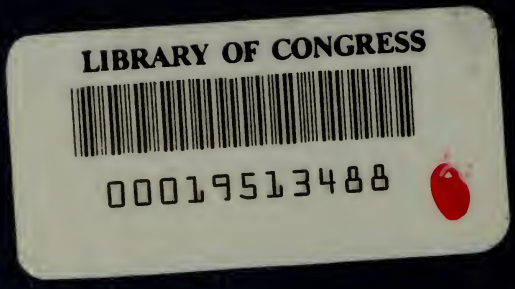
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